

Impact – June 16, 2011 – A Lot Happens Here. Not Sure If That's A Good Thing Though.

Impact Wrestling

Date: June 16, 2011

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

We're past Slammiversary now and on the way to Victory Road. Tonight we apparently also begin the Bound For Glory Series which is a competition between 12 people that I guess we'll hear the details of tonight. Also we have a new world champion in the form of Mr. Anderson who has a #1 contender in the form of Kurt Angle. Finally we also get to begin the build for the Victory Road PPV which is an X-Division themed show involving some people being brought in from the past and outside as well. Let's get to it.

We open with a highlight package of Slammiversary with post match soundbytes from a lot of the guys. Jarrett says it's over with Angle when he says it's over.

Anderson is here with the title and what looks like a black eye. There's a bunch of stuff in the ring such as a basketball goal, a pinball machine, a stripper pole, some food and beer kegs. This is his championship reception. Anderson says he doesn't need anyone in the back or the fans. There are five people that are important to him: his niece, his wife, me, myself and I.

Here's Gunner to crash the party. He talks about how Anderson asked him for help last week and wants a title match as his reward. Anderson thanks him but says Gunner's services are no longer required and he wishes him the best in all of his

future endeavors. Gunner has a hick accent. Anderson says no because there are more deserving people than Gunner. He's thirsty apparently and pours a beer for himself which of course goes into Gunner's face. Gunner puts him through the table of food to end the segment.

The Bound For Glory series is for the title shot at BFG. That's a nice prize.

Sting is here.

D-Von vs. Hernandez

This stems off a match on Xplosion where D-Von beat Anarquia and was beaten down post match, only for Pope to make the save. Hernandez jumps him to start thanks to Sarita distracting the referee. D-Von gets a clothesline for two and spears Hernandez coming out of the corner to keep his advantage.

D-Von has slimmed down a bit apparently. Pope saunters out and sits next to D-Von's family, allowing Hernandez to roll up D-Von for two. Thesz Press by D-Von and here's Mexican America to run in for the DQ at 1:52. Well this was pointless. Pope makes the save after D-Von's sons insist he do so. They have a weird staredown post match.

Anderson storms into Bischoff's office and says Eric needs to control Gunner. Eric says no because Anderson turned down Immortal awhile ago. It's Anderson vs. Gunner, presumably tonight. Ah yes it's tonight.

Kurt is here with his kids.

After the break here's Kurt, minus his kids. Did he leave them with Abyss in daycare or something? Angle talks about how you don't just put a gold medal on the line on a whim. He says that in 1996 he trained very hard and managed to make the

Olympic team and even won a gold medal to represent his country. Angle says he wants to do it again and is trying out for the 2012 Olympic wrestling team at the age of 43. That's legit from what I understand.

Here's Jarrett who says it's not over yet. He says this started with a handshake in Pittsburgh so let's end this tonight. Jeff says that the company can't hold both of them. He wants one more match and doesn't care if it means leaving the country or moving to Mexico. Well he is going to be at AAA's biggest show of the year this weekend so there's some truth to that.

Angle says Jeff should have more honor than this and needs to just leave. Jeff apparently says that there was nothing going on with him and Karen and he lied so Jeff's word means nothing. If Jeff can get a document together by the end of the show saying he'll go to Mexico if he loses, Kurt will see him in the parking lot tonight. The FINAL BATTLE was four days ago right?

We'll explain the BFG Series next.

Ok so here's the deal. There are 12 people in it and the winner is in the BFG Title Match. Points can be won in any kind of match on any TNA show, including house shows. Here's how the scoring works:

Submission: 10 points

Pin: 7 points

Count Out: 5 points

DQ Win: 3 points

Draw: 2 points

DQ Loss: -10 points

The top four compete at an unspecified date and the winner gets the title shot at the biggest show of the year. RVD vs. Samoa Joe is the first match tonight.

Eric Young is talking to Matt Morgan about how he needs to get ready for his TV Title match tonight. Morgan says he needs to get ready for the BFG Series. If any match counts for that, why not beat Young at the same time? Anyway, Young says it has to be a TV star he faces for the TV Title. Morgan says an executive producer here used to be on a sitcom so go find him.

Apparently there's going to be a 12 man tournament with the winner getting a contract at the PPV.

Austin Aries vs. Kid Kash vs. Jimmy Rave

This is part of the aforementioned tournament apparently. Rave has the way old Christian style see through shirt. Aries wants a test of strength with either guy. Next week there are going to be three new X guys apparently. Aries is sent to the floor and Rave takes over on Kash. Aries comes back in and that goes nowhere as Kash pulls him to the floor. Kash tries a springboard but jumps into a spear by Rave for two. Aries cleans house and sends them both to the floor to set up a suicide dive to take them both out.

BIG Austin Aries chant starts up as it's pretty clear that he's the biggest deal here. Kash takes both guys out with a huge spinning dive. Back in the ring Kash and Aries slug it out with Kash getting two. Aries breaks up a Rave cover and plants him with a brainbuster to end this at 4:25.

Rating: B-. Very fast paced match here and it's pretty clear that Aries is the best guy out there, but at the same time I'm not getting overly excited for this series. Once a year they build up the X-Division and after that show the whole thing goes back into the regular flow of things. The matches will

certainly be fun though so there's that to look forward to at least.

Knockout Tag Titles: Velvet Sky/Miss Tessmacher vs. Sarita/Rosita

Sarita and Velvet start us off. Mexican America has been sent to the back apparently. Velvet sends her flying and it's off to Rosita and Tessmacher. The challengers dominate for awhile so it's off to Sarita again. This is your standard Knockouts match, in that they're nice to look at but at the same time it's a lot of yelling and not much on the wrestling. Tessmacher looks incredible in those little shorts but she can't wrestle that well at all. Everything breaks down but as the challengers want a double suplex, here's ODB to distract Velvet. The champs double team Tessmacher and a flip splash by Rosita gets the pin at 3:52.

Rating: D. Nothing of note at all here as the whole thing was just to set up more ODB vs. Velvet which is nothing interesting in the slightest. The girls aren't incredibly good in the ring but they're trying at least. They needed someone in there to anchor this match and it hurt things a lot.

Post match ODB and Velvet yell at each other a lot and here's Jackie freaking Moore for the double beatdown on Velvet. Oh joy. The girls beat up security and Velvet for a long while until they get split up.

Jarrett signs the contract with Hogan for later and Hogan calls him the King of Kings. Jeff leaves and Sting pops up.

On the 14th of July it's the rematch, the show after Destination X. Sting believes him and Hogan says there's a history between them that no one knows about. Sting asks if there's a shred of the old Hogan left. Sting rants about

Hogan's legacy in WCW and the catchphrases and Hogan's legacy that he's leaving for Brooke and Nick (Hulk's kids) which sets Hogan off.

Hogan throws him out and Sting freaks out, saying he's not ready to leave. He goes insane, yelling at "Terry", asking if Terry wants to wear a mask. Sting gets the paint from last week and paints on Hulk's face while pushing him into the corner. Sting shouts about making the choice and we finally see Hogan with paint all over his face. WEIRD segment to say the least.

Jackie and ODB rant about cleaning up the division and Velvet jumps ODB. This results in the heels yelling a lot and sounding very annoying.

Austin Aries says he's going to make the X-Division matter again. Eric Young pops up and tries to start a TV Title match with the interviewer. He superkicks him and gets a pin with Aries counting. Oh it was Jason Hervey from the Wonder Years.

Bound For Glory Series: Rob Van Dam vs. Samoa Joe

This is billed as a dream match. Ok then. The bell is after a break. Joe takes over to start but RVD reverses into a body press for two and hits the floor. Joe catches a slingshot dives into a belly to belly for two in a solid looking spot. RVD avoids a shot in the corner and hits a spinwheel kick to the face of Joe in the corner. Monkey flip out of the corner doesn't work though as Rob lands on the apron, only to get clotheslined across the top to the floor. Suicide elbow takes RVD out again and Joe is in full control.

They change some reversals in the ring and Joe crushes Rob into the corner. Joe's skin is blood red for some reason. Kick to the back of the head gets two for the Samoan. Joe fires some LOUD chops but runs into a boot in the corner. Rob

tries a spinning cross body but Joe goes old school and just moves out of the way of it, letting Rob crash. I love it when he does that.

Knee drop gets two and we hit a modified chinlock. RVD fights out of it and gets a Stunner to set up a superkick. Rolling Thunder gets two. Joe counters a leapfrog of all things but walks into the spin kick of Van Dam's. Release Rock Bottom out of the corner takes Rob down again and Joe loads up the Musclebuster. Rob blocks it so Joe tries a superplex instead. Van Dam breaks it up and the Five Star ends this at 9:10 to give Rob seven points.

Rating: C+. I liked this actually as both guys did a decent job out there. Once they got past the first few minutes things got going a bit better and it became a big match showdown which is what these two should be having. Also nice to see a match get some time tonight as that's normally a perk and it was here.

Gunner is getting medical attention from earlier and says he doesn't like anyone.

Gunner vs. Mr. Anderson

Gunner has Bischoff with him but Bischoff heads to the back rather quickly. Non-title here. Interesting note about Anderson here as his first title match is on July 14, meaning there won't be a world title match at Destination X. After a brief run around outside Anderson gets that neckbreaker of his for two. Off to the chinlock about 90 seconds in with the champion in control. Anderson has a bit of a gut on him.

More shots to the back of the head and then Anderson just hammers away. He slams Gunner but misses a Swanton Bomb. Gunner fights back and gets a belly to back suplex for two. There's a big bandage on Gunner's nose so I guess he got cut

from the cup earlier. Rolling fireman's carry slam gets two for Anderson so he hammers away a bit more. And now Anderson calls down the mic. He announces that he's still world champion and walks into the F5 for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: C-. Didn't really get into this and the ending really hurt it I think. I get that Anderson is cocky but why would he be that arrogant? Also really not a fan of having the world champion lose in his first match. I will give them credit for pushing some new young guys though in the form of Crimson and Gunner, so there's certainly that.

Steiner vs. Ray next week in a BFG match. Steiner rants about not knowing how to do anything other than beat people up. He has no sugar for Ray and can't play the guitar either. This is one of those so insane it's funny promos from Steiner.

Ray says not to crack jokes. This match has the potential to be either the biggest trainwreck of all time or a pretty awesome brawl.

Time for the parking lot brawl with the circle of cars and wrestlers out there. Do you win by pin I guess? Angle takes him down with relative ease and hammers him. This is shot like a fight instead of a match and Angle grabs an armbreaker. Jeff fights out of it and it's almost all Kurt so far. Jeff sends him into a car and Ray yells him on.

Jeff says he'll never leave TNA (again) and tells Kurt to go to train for the Olympics before hitting the Stroke on the concrete. Angle gets up as Jeff leaves and they go at it some more. Angle Slam onto a car and Angle chokes him with his shirt. "Say adios Jarrett!" Jeff is done and Angle leaves. Ray says Jeff enver gave up. Jarrett wakes up and says adios to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. Well you certainly can't say that they didn't throw a lot at us here. I really didn't like the middle section with the girls yelling and the Sting/Hogan

thing. Not that segment didn't grab my attention and get incredibly intense because it did, but it probably leads to Hogan vs. Sting and there's no way that's going to be worth seeing. Not a huge fan of this show, but they were certainly trying which I can definitely give them point for. The two tournaments going on at once are a stretch, but it could be more of the same I guess, which means this is a better alternative.

Results

D-Von b. Hernandez via DQ when Mexican America interfered

Austin Aries b. Jimmy Rave and Kid Kash – Brainbuster to Rave

Rosita/Sarita b. Velvet Sky/Miss Tessmacher – Flip Splash to Tessmacher

Rob Van Dam b. Samoa Joe – Five Star Frog Splash

Gunner b. Mr. Anderson – F5

The Main Event II – It's KB's First Birthday!

The Main Event II

Date: February 3, 1989

Location: Bradley Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura

First and foremost, this was on my first birthday, meaning the day I was born, a year prior to this, as in the day of my birth, isn't my birthday. I've never understood that. Anyway, this is more or less the big moment for the Mega Powers Exploding as we have the Mega Powers vs. the Twin Towers and one other televised match. This is live by the way. It's one of

those cards where you have the full card and then two matches or so on TV. Let's get to it. We open with a graphic about the tag match complete with a fake newspaper talking about how big and awesome this match is. That's so corny that it's awesome. A recap video follows it as basically the Twin Towers are always going after Hogan, Savage and Liz. This is complete with the newspaper thing every time. This is so over the top that it's great. I miss the SNME theme song and since this is a spin off it's the same song. Rock on.

The Twin Towers and Slick cut pure 80s heel promos which are still awesome. I love this era so I'm probably overblowing it but you get the idea. Dang Boss Man is huge. The thing they keep pushing this as is three against two which two can't win.

Twin Towers vs. Mega Powers

This is an hour long show and the match is over twenty minutes long so if you didn't get the idea, this is the only reason to watch this show. After the Towers get to the ring, we get a video about Hogan and Savage. This isn't your typical video however. This is set to a WAY too upbeat song called You're A Friend Of Mine by Clarence Clemens Jackson Browne. Look it up and picture a highlight package of Hogan and Savage. It looks like the intro to a REALLY bad sitcom. I can't make this stuff up people.

Hogan and Savage say there is no issue with these three. The underlying theme here is that Hogan allegedly loves Liz but Hogan insists it's just like a brother and sister. In short, this became about Hogan which Savage didn't like which has to be at least half legitimate. Everyone talks a lot here and hey now let's have a match.

Boss Man starts and Savage and Hogan both want to start for their team. Boss Man wants Hogan so Savage can't get his way again. Hogan looks especially orange tonight. The heels are cleared out by Super Hogan alone and the fans are WAY into it. The little things in this match like Savage wearing Hogan's colors with the words Mega Powers written on them but Hogan

wearing his usual gear is very well done.

Akeem comes in and here's Savage to meet him. Oh wait never mind Hogan needs to come back in. He even comes off the second rope to work on the arm a bit. Boss Man hits a Piledriver and Hogan does his fish out of water dance on the mat. I'm not sure if it looks more like that or a steak being grilled. One or the other. Jesse points out that Hogan is hogging the ring time and he's absolutely right at this point.

Slick gets involved so Savage drills him in the face. Spinebuster which is unnamed at this point gets two. Savage finally comes in this has been ALL Mega Powers. Top rope cross body puts Akeem down but Slick gets a shot in to take down the Macho Man and momentum shifts. Savage is still world champion here if I didn't mention that and you're not familiar with this era.

And now we get to the meat of this show. Akeem throws Savage to the floor and he wipes Elizabeth out, landing right on top of her (lucky). She's GONE and Hogan goes to try to help her which ticks Savage off for some reason. "Oh no the woman I love is getting helped after I was incapacitated! I BETTER NOT DO ANYTHING!" Hogan carries Liz to the back in as dramatic a fashion as possible. He leaves with her as they check her out.

We get the other fun part of this as Hogan's acting is at its peak here. Keep in mind we stay on Hogan and Liz for like 3 minutes with ZERO talk of what's going on in the ring. Back from a break we get a bumper of the match and now back to General Wrestling Hospital. Hogan keeps saying thank God and making weird noises. I don't have the video up as I'm typing here and the sounds are just disturbing. Leaving out the word God it's God Elizabeth God Elizabeth and random moaning and groaning and breathing sounds.

FINALLY he realizes he's left his partner for like ten minutes against two monsters so he comes back for the save and the

glory. Oh but instead of like, I don't know, GETTING IN THE RING and beating the tar out of one of the guys and helping Savage, he gets on the apron and grabs the tag rope. Savage continues to do all of the work and beats up Boss Man but won't tag Hogan.

Savage slaps Hogan nice and hard and leaves him. Serves the bald imbecile right too. Macho stands on the floor and then leaves with his belt. For once Hogan has absolutely no one to blame but himself here. More on that later though. Air Africa (Akeem's splash) hits Hogan, he Hulks Up, Boss Man apparently asks Slick if he knows where he can find a good turkey on rye as he pays NO attention to what's going on and Hogan gets the pin.

Rating: C. Total angle here with a match as the backdrop but this was a big deal to put it mildly. This would be like Orton turning on Cena when they had been best friends for like a year. The match is just ok but that's all it needed to be. Hogan's hammy acting aside, this was perfectly fine for what it was.

Hogan goes to the back where Savage is losing his mind, talking about how the champion is supposed to be #1 to Liz who is laying on the table with apparently NO ONE checking on her at all. We now get the greatest promo of Savage's career as he just goes off on Hogan, ranting and raving about how Hogan has stolen the spotlight from him since day one and how if Hogan wanted a title shot all Hogan had to do was ask and he would have beaten him 1-2-3.

He talks about how Hogan is jealous and lusting after Liz before DRILLING with the belt and beating the living heck out of Hogan in probably the biggest heel turn in company history at the time. I'd put it ahead of Andre as it was on a bigger stage and Savage's promo was better.

Beefcake comes in for the save and Savage just ends him with

like two shots, showing how worthless he was at the time. Savage leaves Hogan laying. Totally AWESOME segment and one of the best promos that I can ever remember anywhere with Savage letting out a year of frustration and paranoia all on Hogan with everything he said making perfect sense for once. Great segment and well worth checking out.

Hercules vs. Ted DiBiase

In short, DiBiase bought Hercules and referred to him as a slave, causing Hercules to rebel and turn face in the process. Obviously no one cares at this point after their minds have been blown to Mars at this point by what they just saw. The announcers rightfully talk about almost nothing but the Mega Powers which for once I'm fine with.

We cut to an interview with Hogan which isn't going to happen. Instead we're told he's in no condition to talk. No music for DiBiase yet. Hercules jumps him before he can take the fake suit off and beats up Virgil for fun. All Herc so far as DiBiase's movement in the ring is still impressive over twenty years later. Ted finally sends Herc to the floor.

The crowd is staying in this one which is kind of surprising. Herc keeps having those power kick outs which are always kind of cool. Very basic match here but fairly well done. Then again I like both guys out there so that might have something to do with it. Powerslam by the power dude means it's time for...Hercules to charge and have no apparent move in mind.

Virgil wraps Herc's chain around the buckle but DiBiase goes into it for two. Hercules gets his backbreaker (torture rack) but Virgil grabs the leg, allowing Ted to get a quick rollup with the tights to end it. DiBiase gets beaten up a bit post match but it's nothing special at all.

Rating: C-. Just a match to fill in some time after the huge angle earlier on. It's not bad or anything but there was nothing that would separate this from a house show match or

something like that. It's ok enough though and more or less blew off this mini feud which is a plus I guess.

Hogan literally grunts and grumbles about Savage. There are no sentences or anything like that but just random words. He sounds like the Incredible Hulk or George Steele before running off and screaming RANDY in a funny moment.

Slam of the Night is about Jake Roberts who has nothing to do with this show at all.

Vince and Jesse talk a bit.

More of Hogan who can now say Macho as well. He randomly beats up Jim Neidhart, grabbing him by the beard and slamming him into a wall. Dang man ticked off Hogan is awesome! He shoves various other people including Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels. He keeps looking as we go off the air. This was kind of awesome actually in a weird way.

Overall Rating: B+. This was all about setting up Mania and the huge heel turn and to say it worked was an understatement. All of a sudden Savage is this mega heel after being unbeatable for the past year and you have Hogan who never lost the title clean to challenge him. Naturally this happened on PPV and drew MILLIONS.

The wrestling here is just ok but this did exactly what it was supposed to and more so it's definitely a win. I doubt you can find a complete show without looking for a long time but DEFINITELY check out Savage's promo and the match if you can as it sets it up. Both are available on the Best of Saturday Night's Main Event DVD which I highly recommend as well. Good show.

NXT – June 14, 2011 – Same Old, Same Old

NXT

Date: June 14, 2011

Location: Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

Tonight is week fifteen, matching the longest season (season 1) of this show so far. With the recent arrest of Lucky Cannon, there's a chance he's gone tonight. That was definitely shocking news. Not that he got arrested. It was shocking that someone actually knew who he was. My money is on someone not named O'Brian going home tonight because someone hates me. Anyway let's get to it.

The opening video is about Lucky Cannon and his interaction with Maryse over the course of the season. Also last week the \$3,500 purse Cannon got her was destroyed thanks to that pesky leprechaun. If that was read out of context, it might make you think wrestling fans are really stupid for watching this product. By reading it in context, we know for fact that they're stupid for watching this.

Maryse brings out the rookies. Oh and Striker is there with her. Cannon is here with a different coat. O'Brian is here with no apparent reason. Young is here with the hair that will not die. O'Neil is here with no Pro due to the attack by Truth last night. Wait Striker just said eliminations, as in PLURAL!!! Oh I'm all aflutter now. The Redemption standings are as follows: O'Neil has nearly double what the other three combined have. Maryse dashes my hopes by saying it's just one elimination tonight.

The challenge is Talk the Talk and you get thirty seconds to say who should be eliminated. Cannon says O'Neil for riding the coattails of his pro. He has no charisma and won't draw money. The show is all about him apparently. O'Neil makes fun of Cannon's robe and says he's smart. Cannon has won nothing apparently and is just running behind Maryse. Can you blame him though? Still a bad promo, but far better than anything O'Neil has ever said.

O'Brian says Young should be gone because he's had his opportunity already. Young blew his chance and has already main evented Summerslam. That's a very good point and proof why Young either should be on the main roster or should be fired, depending on where you stand. Young says he's the best and that they should just give him the crowd now. YES! LISTEN TO THIS MAN! Young jumps O'Brian and leaves. Think that's our main event? We do the judging and Young gets the loudest pop actually but they call it a tie with O'Neil. O'Neil does clearly get the biggest pop on the second try so I can live with that.

Darren Young vs. Yoshi Tatsu

This has the potential to not suck. Tatsu works on the arm a lot and that's about it for the start of this. Remember when Tatsu was this hot thing on ECW? How in the world has he fallen that far that fast? We're three and a half minutes into this now and there's been nothing but the arm work so far. Tatsu fires off some chops in the corner so Young punches him in the face.

Dropkick sends Young to the floor but he catches a DDT on the apron to Tatsu to take over. Here comes JTG as we take a break. Back with Young holding a front facelock and JTG is on commentary now. Regal gets on JTG about various things and it stuns me that people actually liked JTG at some point.

Chinlock goes on by Young as this isn't incredibly interesting.

Regal and JTG do their usual schtick and it's kind of funny as always. Young hits the chinlock some more to waste even more time. How is it possible that this show is already halfway over? Tatsu breaks the hold and takes Young down to start his comeback. Some kicks abound and up he goes. And speaking of go, there goes my feed. By the time it's back Yoshi is hammering away with nothing but strikes. What a shock. Double knees in the corner and a spinwheel kick get two. Shining Wizard gets two. Yoshi goes up but Chavo distracts him, allowing Young to pull him off the top for the pin at approximately 13:50.

Rating: D+. Based on just what I saw, this was pretty weak. There's no real point to having these guys fight and that's what makes this show not work. They can have these pointless matches all they want but the matches get really dull after awhile. Tatsu and Young have no reason to fight and that becomes apparent after 12 minutes of them fighting. Weak match and boring to boot.

Maryse tells Lucky that her purse can be repaired. Lucky says he'll take care of it and she says she gave the purse fixers Lucky's credit card. Ok then.

Titus O'Neil vs. Lucky Cannon

Pre-match, Cannon promises to beat up Horny when he gets back. Power vs. speed for lack of a better term here. Titus throws him around so Cannon runs. In old school heel fashion, Cannon gets a shot in to Titus as he comes back in and takes over. Apparently O'Neil is distracted due to the lack of small green clothed men. I give up. Legdrop gets two for Cannon. Chinlock goes on and the fans aren't all that thrilled. Lucky does the dog bark as this needs to end.

Titus starts his comeback and hits a clothesline and there's the dog bark. Clash of the Titus ends this at 6:46.

Rating: D+. Well this match happened. That's about all there is to say here. O'Neil is a good power guy and probably has done the best this season, which means he probably won't win. Weak match here which has been a theme tonight so far. I'm not thrilled with this show at all as you can probably tell. The problem is the same as earlier: how many times can we see these people have matches? It gets really annoying really fast and it did about three months ago.

In one of the only funny lines of the night, Todd says elimination is next. "One of these four superstars' dreams are crushed tonight and it's all your fault WWE Universe!"

Elimination time and Lucky is gone in 4th place. The reactions are great here, with Striker looking STUNNED. No real shock due to what happened this weekend (he was arrested for impersonating a police officer of all things) but rather annoying because O'Brian is STILL around. Hopefully this ends soon though. Lucky says he should be on Smackdown instead of on here and Titus leads us in the goodbye song. Maryse says she appreciates the stuff but the purse was a fake and slaps Lucky to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. I really didn't like this week as the in ring stuff is right back to where it was a few weeks ago. Somehow they fit about twenty minutes into this show which is rather impressive for a 50 minute show, and will likely approach Impact in terms of overall ring time. Not much here at all this week and another boring show.

Results

Titus O'Neil won the Talk the Talk Challenge

Darren Young b. Yoshi Tatsu – Slam off the top rope

Titus O'Neil b. Lucky Cannon – Clash of the Titus

Lucky Cannon was eliminated in 4th place

Monday Night Raw – June 13, 2011 – All-Stars. Uh...Why?

Monday Night Raw

Date: June 13, 2011

Location: Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Long Island, New York

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Michael Cole

This is a three hour show and billed as WWE All-Stars. The guest GM for the night is Steve Austin so expect some extra fans to be brought in because of him. It's also the final show before Capitol Punishment so the final push towards that should happen tonight. Cena and Truth will probably interact a good deal tonight which should be entertaining. Let's get to it.

Cena vs. Punk in the main event. Oh joy. The graphics are from the All-Stars game.

Here's Miz to open the show looking awesome as usual. Miz says he's the all time WWE All-Star because he won in the main event on the flagship show last week. Then again you would have to be a moron to know that. You know, like Alex Riley. The crowd does the WHAT thing and Miz makes fun of them for it, saying it was cool in 2001. No it wasn't but we'll let that slide.

Miz calls out Austin and wants to know why every time he looks up there's Austin or Rock or someone from the Attitude Era trying to steal his spotlight. Austin owes him an apology apparently and here he is. Austin gets in his face about his suit and his hair and various other things. The night the Tough Enough cast debuted Miz came out here and ran his mouth, talking all kinds of trash.

Austin actually gives him some credit for being a silver tongued devil. Miz tries to say something but Austin cuts him off, saying stop talking while Austin has something to say. Austin talks about Alex Riley and says that he's got something, saying that he might be a bigger star than Miz someday. Miz wants to know if he can talk yet and Austin says no. Austin asks if Miz is going to take Riley out on Sunday and then grabs him by the tie, saying that Miz and Riley need counseling. Austin is going to provide it tonight with one Rowdy Roddy Piper tonight in this very ring.

Austin turns away slightly and says if Miz knows what's good for him he'll get out of here right now. Miz backs off slowly and Austin slowly turns around on him, saying that it's not Miz's time to be a hero. Miz finally leaves to solid heat. Here's Alberto in wrestling gear to cut off Austin again. Del Rio does his usual intro and says it's time for Austin to pass the torch to Del Rio.

He talks about destiny of course and Austin isn't all that impressed. He says he's not much of a fortune teller but says that he sees bad things for Del Rio in the future. Ever since Del Rio injured Big Show with his car, Del Rio has had everyone ready to bash Del Rio's skull in, so tonight the opening match is Del Rio vs. Kane.

Kane vs. Alberto Del Rio

The bell is after the break. Kane takes over to start and

gets his low dropkick for two. Del Rio goes straight for the arm of course, hitting the Codebreaker to the arm. Kane fights out of an arm hold and goes up for the clothesline but crash lands. Del Rio gets the cross armbreaker but can't hook it all the way and Kane gets to the rope. Del Rio holds onto it for the five count and the DQ at 2:50. Not much at all here.

Alberto still won't let go and here's Big Show, SPRINTING to the ring to take out Alberto. Del Rio runs so Show kills Ricardo. Kane has to choke Big Show to get him to let go. Austin pops up to make Big Show vs. Del Rio at the PPV.

Ricardo was taken away on a stretcher during the break.

Cody Rhodes/Wade Barrett/Ted DiBiase vs. Sin Cara/Ezekiel Jackson/Daniel Bryan

They to the light again as Cara and Rhodes start. Off to Bryan quickly though who hammers on Rhodes. The former Legacy takes Bryan down and here comes Barrett for a battle of Nexus. Cole keeps ignoring Lawler's jokes which might be in the best interest for all involved. Barrett gets a crescent kick to the ribs and a pumphandle slam for two on Bryan. Barrett drills Cara but Bryant gets the hot tag to run through Barrett.

Here come the slams which are starting to grow on me. They're so basic but they look good and convincing. Torture Rack goes on but Legacy comes in for the double team save. Jackson tosses them over the top and tosses Bryan on top of them. Jackson takes Barrett down again and here's Cara. Slingshot crossbody ends this at 3:45. Cara might have been legal for 10 seconds total.

Rating: C. Pretty basic here and they kept Cara out of the ring on a live show which more or less can't be a bad thing at

all. He needs an actual story rather than just going out there and doing random high spots. Either way, this was fine for what it was, which was just a way to get the Smackdown midcard on the show.

Back and here's Horny firing t-shirts to the crowd using a cannon. And here's R-Truth to end that. They're all little Jimmy and Jennys apparently. He wants to try but he's going to become the new champion on Sunday. Horny shoots him with a shirt and that doesn't work. Truth grabs him and....hugs him. Ok then. Truth shakes his hand and KICKS HIM IN THE FACE. Awesome! Truth does his psycho talking to Horny and here's Austin on the big screen. Truth has a match later with John Morrison! He's back! Truth stomps on Horny again and leaves. Lawler comes in to check on the leprechaun.

Santino Marella vs. Sheamus

The bell rings very quickly with no entrance for either guy. Santino fires some kicks off to get Sheamus into the corner. Not that any of them hit but he's trying at least. Sheamus takes his head off with a clothesline and hammers away, getting another clothesline for two. Cravate goes on for a bit and then Sheamus rams him into the buckle.

Santino Italians Up and that gets him nowhere, other than in the path of another clothesline. High Cross doesn't work and he loads up the Cobra. Brogue Kick misses and Santino gets the Cobra! Naturally it gets like one and the Brogue Kick hits before Sheamus puts on a Texas Cloverleaf for the submission at 2:50. Not much, but cool to see a new finisher.

Orton is up next.

We get the same video from Smackdown of Christian drilling Orton with the title.

Here's Orton to a fairly tame reaction. And Orton's mic doesn't work. He wants Christian here right now and that he only wants to talk. He won't punt him or try an RKO. All he wants to do is talk. Orton says don't make him come back there. He might go to the papers otherwise.

Christian pops up on the screen and says he's earned his spot, unlike Orton who has had everything thrown on him. He polls the fans, asking if they want him to come out here. The fans cheer, so of course he's not coming. Orton says Edge isn't here which is a shame. Edge has been carrying Christian for 17 years so he could carry him to the ring.

That seems to be enough and here comes Christian in a new shirt. Here he is in the arena but he stops on the ramp. Orton goes after him but Christian makes the save. There's an E-Mail which says Orton has a concussion apparently. He won't wrestle tonight so the GM says go home. If Orton doesn't chill he's stripped of the title. Randy tries one more charge at Christian but leaves. It wasn't a big charge so it's ok I guess. Austin pops up on the screen and makes Christian vs. Rey Mysterio next.

Christian vs. Rey Mysterio

Booker jumps in on commentary here. Mysterio vs. Punk on Sunday. Haven't we seen that a lot recently? I guess that's the rubber match in this mini-series so it makes sense. Rey speeds things up to start and sends Christian down with a headscissors. And never mind as Rey takes him down with a clothesline to take over. Off to the chinlock which doesn't last long. Christian sends Rey over the top and to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Christian holding a chinlock as Rey tries to fight his way up. Christian goes into the corner and steps on Rey...and it's a DQ? The bell rang at 5:40 but seriously, what

the heck was that? I'd bet on a legit accident because that made zero sense at all. Christian goes after Rey post match but Rey knocks him off the top and sets for a splash, but here comes Punk. Rey dives on him instead and here's Nexus. Rey avoids the Killswitch and knocks Christian down. 619 to Christian is blocked by Ryan who kills him by ramming him into the post and hitting a backbreaker. Killswitch leaves Rey laying.

Rating: C. Call this right in the middle because the majority of it was in the commercial. I'd bet on this being a mistake. Either that or this was really stupid booking. It felt so completely random and the post match stuff seemed like they were trying to fill in time. I don't get this at all but it wasn't that bad. I guess they want to protect both guys which makes sense at least.

Austin is on the phone when Vickie and Dolph come up. She shouts EXCUSE ME at him and asks for a US Title shot for Dolph on Sunday. Austin says ok on one condition: he drops Vickie as his associate. Dolph doesn't want to do it but Austin goes into a speech about DiBiase being his manager and Dolph reluctantly drops him. Austin says he's just having fun with them and leaves while Vickie makes funny noises. So are they split up or not?

R-Truth vs. John Morrison

We get a quick recap of Morrison being injured by Truth. And there's no Morrison. The music plays again and there's no Morrison. Truth says get out here and says Morrison need to unscare himself. Truth says he'll bring the fight to Morrison and goes into the back. To the back we go and someone is out cold. SHAZAM! It's Morrison, still down and holding his neck. Maybe he's not back yet. Truth says all the Little Jimmys came here to see a great match. Truth leaves and then

comes back, crushing Morrison with an anvil case. Truth has the funniest psycho face you'll ever see as we go to break.

Video on Dolph Ziggler before his match.

Dolph Ziggler/Jack Swagger vs. Evan Bourne vs. Kofi Kingston

No pyro for Swagger's pushups. Vickie is with Dolph here so I guess they're still together. Dolph and Kofi start us off. Kofi jumps around a lot and hits a jumping back elbow yet somehow it's Dolph getting the cover. Odd indeed. Off to Swagger who gets a belly to belly for two. Vader Bomb misses though and it's off to Bourne.

Bourne gets some sweet jumping shots and a rollup on Swagger gets two but there's the ankle lock. Evan rolls through it, only for Dolph to grab his foot. Bourne kicks him in the head while Kofi hits Trouble in Paradise to Swagger. Picture perfect Air Bourne ends this at 2:55. Just a quick match and not enough to grade but this was fine.

Back and it's time for Piper's Pit. Yep, Piper is drunk. Piper talks about Mania 2 where he dropped Mr. T in this ring. Here's Miz to say really. Miz says he's the next Piper, Piper says there's never going to be another Roddy Piper. Piper calls Miz a Roddy Piper wannabe which Miz denies, saying at least he's been WWE Champion. He also actually won in the main event of Wrestlemania.

Miz says he was on Real World and makes fun of They Live. Piper says he never saw Real World because he was busy living in the Real World. Piper says let's talk about the future, like this Sunday. Here's Riley, who says that Miz never was his friend. Piper says that gave him self respect. Miz points out the hypocrisy of Piper getting annoyed with someone for that when he mistreated Bob Orton for all those years.

Gorilla Monsoon, King Kong Bundy, Mean Gene are all in the bottom of a well so who do you save first? Miz has no idea what Piper is talking about. "Just when you think you got all the answers, I CHANGE THE QUESTIONS!" That was great. Piper says Riley beating him will be AWESOME. Riley says Piper can beat Miz right now. Miz says he'll put up \$1000 that he can beat Piper right now. Piper gets all nervous due to the age and says how about \$5000? Austin pops up and says do it. Both guys are putting up five grand and Alex Riley is guest referee. Hilarious as well as good segment here.

Roddy Piper vs. The Miz

Piper is in tights and a t-shirt while Miz is in street clothes. Miz hammers away and Piper gets a sleeper. Riley pulls him off and here they go. Piper grabs a schoolboy for the pin at 1:06.

Some Divas are going to be on the Price is Right.

Tamina/Alicia Fox/Rosa Mendes/Maryse/Bella Twins/Melina vs. Kelly Kelly/Eve Torres/Gail Kim/Natalya/Beth Phoenix/AJ/Kaitlyn

If this goes past two minutes I'll be stunned. Kelly and Brie start but it's off to Melina or Rosa and there's the big brawl almost immediately. Kelly hits the K2 on Rosa and we're done at 1:25. Three out of the fourteen were actually legal.

Post match Eve gets on the mic and says the Tony Awards (Broadway) were in New York last night. They get in a line and to the Rockette kicks. This was totally pointless.

We recap the ending to Tough Enough last week where Vince Slapped Andy and Austin stunned him. Andy is in the back with Austin and they share a beer. Punk comes in and makes fun of

Andy. Austin asks Andy to leave and offers Punk a beer. They do the WHAT sequence over various types of alcohol. Punk wants to give Austin a breathalyzer. Punk: "Can you say the alphabet backwards?" Austin: "I can whip you backwards." Huge pop for that. No Nexus at ringside tonight.

Here's Austin for a major announcement. He thanks the crowd but is cut off by an E-Mail. Cole sounds scared to death to have to read it. Austin is sick of the GM, who says that all good things must come to an end. The anonymous GM will be back next week on Raw. Austin's watch says there's some time left so as of right now he's still the GM.

Next week Austin won't be the GM but next week there will be another three hour Raw and next week it's all about the power of the people. They'll make all the matches and stipulations, I guess like Viewer's Choice from when Bret was GM last year. The GM keeps sending E-Mails and Austin gets ticked off so he chases Cole off. DOWN GOES THE COMPUTER! He pours beer on it and runs over it with the ATV before leaving. Oh wait he's back to have some beers.

Capitol Punishment ad with the press conference thing. This one is Smackdown themed. The jokes are kind of funny but at the same time the idea to get them here is really old.

CM Punk vs. John Cena

There's a five minute overrun tonight apparently so this has a good deal of time. Punk sits down in the middle of the ring after his entrance. This is the first time we've seen Cena all night and he gets a solid reaction but it's mainly booing. The dueling chants are going strong quickly. Punk goes behind Cena and that gets him nowhere. Punk tries the GTS and Cena tries the AA but neither work and it's a stalemate. Cena tries the fisherman's suplex and gets countered into being draped over the ropes as we take a break.

Back with Cena hammering away but walking into an old school abdominal stretch. Oh and Cole is back on commentary. Punk hits a huge dive to the floor and then with a Savage point to the roof he hits something that kind of almost resembled a double axe. Off to a bodyscissors which Cena reverses into the STF but he can't make it last as Punk gets the rope. Leg lariat gets two for Punk.

Punk keeps his advantage, hitting the clothesline in the corner. Cena reverses the bulldog though and sets the ending sequence. He tries the shoulder block and Punk uses one of his Zen counters that he learned in his tours of Japan by calling on his ancient martial arts training: he ducks, sending Cena flying to the floor. Why don't more people get that? Cena does the same to the springboard clothesline and both guys are down. Cena starts his comeback and hits the Protoplex but here's Truth to annoy a fan. He offers a sip of water for the fan's hat. The distraction lets Punk hit the GTS for the pin at 14:00.

Rating: B. Good match here for the most part with Punk finally getting the pin that he's never gotten (I don't think at least) over Cena. His reaction post match helped it a lot as he looked like he was a kid on Christmas morning. Good stuff here between two guys that definitely have chemistry together.

Truth hits Cena with the bottle of water post match and takes the belt with him after talking some trash.

Overall Rating: C+. This wasn't great to say the least but it wasn't too bad. It certainly drags at times and I really don't get the point of the All-Stars aspect, but they needed something to fill in the Draft show that they were probably scheduled to have here. Not horrible but at the same time there really was no need to make this a three hour show. I've seen worse though, and they pushed the PPV a lot. Not terrible, but really nothing all that great.

Results

Kane b. Alberto Del Rio via DQ when Del Rio wouldn't break the cross armbreaker

Ezekiel Jackson/Sin Cara/Daniel Bryan b. Wade Barrett/Ted DiBiase/Cody Rhodes – Springboard Crossbody to Barrett

Sheamus b. Santino Marella – Texas Cloverleaf

Rey Mysterio b. Christian via DQ when Christian would not stop choking Mysterio

Evan Bourne/Kofi Kingston b. Jack Swagger/Dolph Ziggler – Air Bourne to Swagger

Roddy Piper b. The Miz – Schoolboy

Kelly Kelly/Eve Torres/Gail Kim/Natalya/Beth Phoenix/AJ/Kaitlyn b. Tamina/Alicia Fox/Rosa Mendes/Maryse/Bella Twins/Melina – K2 to Mendes

CM Punk b. John Cena – GTS

Slammiversary 2011 – Some very questionable stuff but TNA's best PPV of the year

Slammiversary 2011

Date: June 12, 2011

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

It's anniversary day for TNA again as this time they're

turning nine. The main event is Sting vs. Anderson in what I'm sure will live up to all of the hype. Given the matches and such they've had so far for this setup, that shouldn't take much. Other than that we've got Angle vs. Jarrett in another final match, this time with the medals and the title shot next month on the line. Other than that, standard TNA fair. Let's get to it.

The opening video is about Sting vs. Anderson to no surprise. Now let's talk about the Knockouts and Angle/Jarrett. Jarrett vs. Angle is the main topic. Nothing about the whole anniversary aspect yet. Sting vs. Anderson is the last part of it. Nothing special at all here.

Tag Titles: British Invasion vs. James Storm/Alex Shelley

Shelley is subbing for the injured Robert Roode here. The Brits are Magnus and Williams who now have matching jackets. Roode sits in on commentary. Williams is in trunks now which is going to take some getting used to. Storm vs. Williams to start us off but it's off to Shelley quickly. Shelley of course speeds things way up but a blind tag brings in Storm to face Magnus. Very fast paced stuff so far.

Double dropkick takes Magnus down so it's off to Williams. They do one of the Guns' moves with the bridging neck hold but Storm adds in a pair of fingers to the eyes instead of a dropkick. Shelley gets pulled to the floor and the tide turns a bit. Williams chokes away a bit and drops a knee for two. The Brits get an overly elaborate double neckbreaker as Shelley plays face in peril for awhile.

Magnus hits a suplex and Shelley wants a tag. Nice double team moves sets up a middle rope elbow for Williams. Exploder suplex by Williams looks to set up Rolling Chaos Theory but Shelly counters into a Downward Spiral into the middle

buckle. Hot tag to Storm who sends Williams to the floor. Williams is sent to the floor again, this time on top of Magnus. Suicide dive by Shelley takes Williams down again. That's not a good few seconds for him at all.

They even stop to do the BEER MONEY thing. Shelley stuns Magnus on the top rope and Storm sets for the Eye of the Storm but Williams reverses. Superkick is blocked as is the Rolling Chaos. Superkicks all around and a Codebreaker sets up a top rope double stomp for a close two on Williams.

Top rope kick puts Magnus down and Storm loads up the beer, which of course goes into Shelley's eyes. Shelley drills Storm and a top rope variation of the Hart Attack (European Uppercut instead of a clothesline) gets a very close two on Storm. Shelley pops in again and it's a superkick to Magnus to set up the Sliced Bread to end this. Solid opener.

Rating: B. Good stuff to start us off here and that's exactly what it was supposed to be. Tags are more or less the perfect opener to shows, especially when they're fast paced like this one was. They worked hard out there and we have a solid pace set for the show, which is what the opener is for. I'm very pleased here.

Jarrett and Angle got here earlier today.

Steiner says his arms are bigger than Morgan's so he'll beat him down tonight. Oh and he'll take Morgan's girlfriend.

Matt Morgan vs. Scott Steiner

Let the war of alliteration begin! Steiner is billed from the Detroit University of Michigan. The university is in Ann Arbor but who cares I guess. Morgan dominates to start and takes Steiner to the floor rather quickly. Back in Steiner hits a low blow and takes over. I can't imagine this is going

to go long. Belly to belly gets two. There's the clothesline/elbow/pushups. Steiner's offense is rather slow so let's talk about the Impact Wrestling fantasy game.

Steiner yells at the fans a lot and continues his very slow style. Tazz calls it veteran pacing. I call it he's old and slow. Morgan wakes up a bit and hammers away to start his comeback. Steiner goes into the buckle and it's a splash to set up a side slam for no cover. Michinoku Driver gets two. Steiner gets a suplex (I'm shocked too) to break the momentum and two at the same time. Isn't he efficient?

Downward Spiral by Steiner for two. Steiner Recliner goes on and there's zero torque on it at all. Morgan gets underneath him and lifts him up but Steiner USES A VICTORY ROLL for two. WOW. Chokeslam and belly to belly are blocked and the Carbon Footprint ends this. Well at least the right guy won there.

Rating: C-. Not a horrible battle of the big men here and I'm still recovering from that victory roll. It was a pretty good one on top of that. Now for the love of all things good and holy, get Morgan something else to do that isn't a random power vs. power feud. He's been doing those forever now and they're old.

Jarrett says he's already taken Kurt's greatest accomplishment and she's sitting in Sleeping Giant. Oh wait that's just Morgan's music still playing. Karen is the greatest accomplishment apparently. On Thursday Jeff is going to be awarded the gold medal apparently. This victory is going to be dedicated to Karen.

Recap of the X-Division triple threat. Abyss got the title from Kaz and quoted Art of War a lot. Kaz and Kendrick are trying to get the title off of him to save the X-Division. Oh and Abyss calls it the Xtreme Title.

X-Division Title: Brian Kendrick vs. Abyss vs. Kazarian

Kendrick is all serious here. You would think this would be a handicap match for the most part. Kendrick is down within seconds so Kaz tries to hammer away to no real result. Dropkick works a bit but Kaz is knocked to the floor a second later. Abyss is like screw these tiny men and throws Kendrick to the floor on top of Kaz. They finally wake up and double team him which puts him down in the corner.

Out to the floor and more double teaming takes Abyss down. Back in the ring and Kaz tries to send Kendrick into Abyss but thankfully Abyss remembers that his finisher is a spinning slam so it's a Black Hole Slam for Kendrick. Big boot takes Kaz down and the monster stands tall. Abyss beats on Kaz and knocks Kendrick back to the floor before he can do anything.

Big lumbering clothesline in the corner puts Kaz down as we've slowed this way down. Kaz tries to bite Abyss and that fails as well. Off to a neck crank as Kendrick comes back in again. And scratch that as he falls down again. Kaz tries a comeback but gets caught in Shock Treatment. Vader Bomb misses as the previously assumed dead Kendrick is back in. Some dropkicks put Abyss down for two. More kicks set up a decent tornado DDT for two. Abyss gets all ticked off and chokeslams Kendrick. Pretty bad rana takes Abyss down as does a double dropkick.

Slingshot legdrop by Kaz sets up a frog splash by Kendrick for a double stacked two. Chokeslam to Kaz is countered into a rollup for two. Kaz is thrown into Kendrick and Abyss falls to the floor. Kendrick and Kaz fire off some rights to each other and some F Bombs. Well this had to happen eventually. Kaz puts him on the top and Abyss is still down. Kaz tries a top rope C4 to Kendrick but settles for the Fade To Black. That doesn't work either as Kendrick reverses and nails Kaz with a leg lariat. And here's Abyss to steal the pin to retain.

Rating: C. The selling was kind of overkill here but at the same time they had the story down pretty well. It entered into the triple threat formula at the end but at the same time they kind of had to do that to make the match work. Not a horrible match or anything but just about what was expected. Abyss will likely lose next month.

Crimson vs. Joe is recapped. It's a battle of the undefeated streaks so look for Crimson to win here, which would be his biggest win. Oh and we get a clip of the "viral" video of the bar fight.

Samoa Joe vs. Crimson

Crimson hits the ring and they slug it out immediately. The fans think Joe's Gonna Kill Crimson. Suicide dive is blocked by a forearm from the floor and there's a big boot back in the ring by Crimson. Neckbreaker gets two. Cravate goes on so Joe gets a bad dragon screw leg whip to take the red dude down. Crimson hammers away on Joe but walks into a kind of atomic drop sort of a move to the knee. That was different.

He takes Crimson down with relative ease and there's a leg bar for a few seconds. Spinning toe hold by Joe as we go back to the mid 1870s. Crimson counters into a triangle choke and then an arm bar which gets him nowhere. T-Bone suplex by Crimson takes Joe down as the fans are trying to get into this. Double arm DDT gets two. The fans chant Mercer, which is Crimson's real name I believe.

Suplex and a clothesline by Joe get two. Joe goes up to the middle rope for a Rough Ryder for two. Joe is all frustrated. "Dang man end this match already before the buffet is empty." Powerbomb gets two and it's off to a half crab. We get a Gumby reference of all things as the hold stays on. They slap it out and Crimson gets a spear to take Joe down. They slug it out again with Crimson knocking him

back into the corner. Now Joe knocks him back into the corner but can't get the Musclebuster. Clutch can't go on either so there's the Red Sky to end this.

Rating: C+. Pretty good big slugout here and it's good to see Crimson actually face big time competition for a change. Pretty good match here with the ending being pretty clear, but a nice test for Crimson nonetheless. I don't think Crimson is as great as he's made out to be, but this worked pretty well for what it was.

They shake hands post match and Joe pulls Crimson in close to say we'll do this again.

Winter and Angelina do their usual thing. Winning the title is a step closer to the final destiny apparently. Angelina turns down the pill this time and says it's not necessary anymore because they're on the same page.

Knockout Title: Angelina Love vs. Mickie James

Fans are totally behind Mickie here. There's a fat guest timekeeper that Taz makes jokes about. Angelina does her zombie thing and it turns into kind of a catfight. Love works on the arm so Mickie gets a rana out of the corner, only to walk into a snap suplex for two. Mickie blows a kiss at Winter so Winter takes her down. Not into swinging I guess. Mickie gets a clothesline to take both girls down.

And there she goes right back to the floor. Angelina is sent into the steps which gets about a seven on the floor. Back in and Mickie takes over one more time with a bunch of clotheslines. Thesz Press off the top gets no cover. Winter grabs Mickie's foot again which gets her nowhere at all.

Botox Injection (name totally doesn't fit anymore) gets two so Angelina goes all psycho on Mickie again. She tries that

backbreaker thing she's been doing which is countered into the DDT attempt. Northern lights suplex gets two. Winter cheating on a rollup gets two. They botch the jumping DDT like never before but it gets the pin anyway. Horrible looking ending and considering Mickie was involved in it, that says a lot.

Rating: D+. The botches were flowing harder than a sorority's menstrual cycle here and it really hurt the match. They need to get somewhere already with this story because they're moving like molasses with it. Just get to the lesbian stuff or have Angelina wake up already. Mickie keeping the title here is probably only temporary but whatever.

Mickie gets choked out after the match.

Ray says he's a man unlike AJ and that he'll destroy AJ.

We recap AJ Styles vs. Bully Ray. Ray is being a bully (shocking) and doesn't like how AJ acts as a wrestler, saying he's a boy.

Bully Ray vs. AJ Styles

Last man standing here. AJ is listed as being from Gainesville, Florida instead of Georgia. Christy looks good, but dude, go wear low cut shirts and that's about it. Staredown to start and then AJ hammers away. Ray runs him over so that gets us nowhere. This is going to take awhile to get anywhere, much like any last man standing match. Ray pounds away and we go to the floor for awhile.

Bully sets up the steps but chops away instead. He drops AJ onto the steps but pulls him up at about 4. Ray puts the steps on AJ and then stands on him, which should get a ten. Naturally Ray lets him up because he's not that intelligent at times. That and a few more shots get a four. Back into the

ring for some more hard chops as this has almost been all Ray.

AJ says bring it and holds his chest out. More chopping follows and Styles says keep em coming. Ray of course stands around and lets AJ get up because again, he's not that smart. Instead he punches him in the jaw this time which works a bit better. AJ gets back up and his chest is all kinds of messed up. Styles hammers away and gets Ray down with the Pele. Springboard forearm gets six.

Ray goes up so AJ hits a Pele up there. AJ goes up there for a rana but gets caught in a sitout powerbomb. That looks awesome coming off the top and it gets like five here. They both stumble to the floor and Ray has a chain. That hits post though and Ray's hand is hurt. AJ gets the chain and a jumping punch with it sends Ray under the ring to blade. Ooo and it's a good one too.

Back in the ring and AJ gets his springboard 450 for a count of about 8. AJ picks Ray up and throws him to the floor and down goes a cameraman. Pescado puts Ray down again and it's Styles Clash time. That of course doesn't work so we go back up the ramp. Ray wants the powerbomb again but AJ hits a pair of Peles and a punt to send Ray to the floor.

AJ is like screw it and dives off the stage to Ray and it looks like his head slammed into Ray's shoulder. That only gets 9. Styles loads up a table and puts it in front of the stage. Chair to the back puts Ray on it and it's huge spot time. He sets for a running dive but realizes it's too far. Instead he climbs up the truss and hits one of the biggest dives you'll EVER see to kill Ray. I was legit scared there. And then Ray kicks him through the stage wall and wins the freaking thing. HORRIBLE ending as AJ was built up perfectly and then oh wait let's make sure Ray wins because AJ freaking Styles isn't a big enough star right?

Rating: B. Great match and the ending ruined it. AJ hits one

of the biggest spots in company history and then BULLY FREAKING RAY beats him with a kick to the back? Are you freaking kidding me? Zero reason at all for Ray to win this and the shot he wins it with was freaking weak. AJ's dive is worth seeing and is up there with the Swanton Jeff Hardy did to Orton on Raw like three years ago for scary dives. Hate the ending though. Absolutely hate it.

Anderson says it's serious time tonight.

We recap the world title match which is Anderson trying to get under Sting's skin, which never really made a lot of sense but whatever.

TNA World Title: Sting vs. Mr. Anderson

Sting comes in and jumps Anderson during the entrance. He's in all red here and has that paint on his face making him look like the Joker. All Sting so far as Anderson can't even get his shirt off. Into the crowd they go and Anderson goes into a wall. There's black/gray around Sting's mouth for some reason. Anderson gets a quick reversal and that gets him nowhere at all as Sting pounds on him even more.

Up the steps they go even further and this is wasting a ton of time. To the ring finally and Sting is sent into the post. Anderson sends Sting's hand into the steps and then pulls the arm around the post for awhile. More F Bombs dropped as an armbar goes on Sting. Clothesline puts Sting down again for two. Anderson wastes forever and does Sting's chest pound before missing a horrible Stinger Splash.

Modified world's strongest slam gets two. Anderson is covering a lot here. Back to the armbar which makes some sense here at least. Sting starts his comeback and pounds on his chest as he is known to do at times. Clothesline sets up a backdrop and the splash in the corner. Scorpion is set

up....and here's Bischoff. Another Stinger Splash misses and Anderson gets a very close two.

Sting gets a regular DDT with the bad arm for two. He tries something close to a Banzai Drop but gets caught in the little stingers which gets two for Anderson. Mic Check hits on the second attempt for two. Stinger Splash and the Death Drop hit but Bischoff interferes and messes with the count so there was only a two count instead of the three. Low blow RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE REFEREE sets up the Mic Check and we have a new champion. Wow indeed.

Rating: C. The chicanery hits again. I really hope this doesn't set up Anderson joining Immortal because it really seemed like it was dying there for awhile. Bischoff is the source of drama again which is his custom. Hopefully this sticks around so we don't have Sting vs. Hogan for the title. Surprising ending and it more or less locks up Angle winning tonight in the main event.

Karen says Kurt pushed her which is what caused her injuries. The medal comes to Tennessee tonight. Tenay calls her a ball buster.

We recap Jarrett vs. Angle which is the final battle tonight. They've had like six PPV matches tonight and this one is mainly over Karen being "injured" (read as going off to get implants) which we couldn't see the details of.

Kurt Angle vs. Jeff Jarrett

Winner gets the title shot next month and if Jeff wins he gets Kurt's medal. I can live with this being the main event because it's the anniversary show and this has been built up better than Sting vs. Anderson. Angle's right arm is taped a bit. Feeling out process to start as they're going for the big epic match here which they probably should. Angle takes it to the mat as is his custom.

Headlock goes on for awhile by Angle and he adds a hiptoss to take over. Jeff backdrops him to the floor and Kurt is holding his shoulder which I'd assume is kayfabe. Jeff works him over on the floor for awhile and we head back into the ring. Jarrett hammers away as Angle is in trouble. He hits that move where one guy is in position for the 619 and you jump on their back. Both try cross bodies and they both go down.

There's the sleeper to give them a breather. Angle rams him into the corner and there's a German. Boo/yay punching sequence with the yays having it. Belly to belly gets two. Dropkick off the middle rope gets two. Jarrett tries a rana I think which is countered into a powerbomb for two. Ankle lock goes on for a bit but Jeff gets a DDT for two. Stroke is countered into the Angle Slam for two. Moonsault misses and he would have barely hit Jeff's feet anyway.

Tombstone doesn't work and it's ankle lock time again. Jeff rolls through and down goes the referee. Low blow takes Kurt down and Jeff grabs a guitar on the floor. Down goes Kurt and for once he moves the pieces out of the ring. He leaves one though and here's another referee who apparently wasn't watching the screen in the back. That gets two and Jeff is ticked.

Earl and Jeff get into a shoving match, resulting in a Kurt rollup for two. Here are the Germans for a long two. Jeff goes up and there's the running suplex for a long two. The crowd isn't really getting into this for some reason. Angle charges and goes shoulder first into the post. Middle rope Stroke only gets two. Jeff gets the Angle Slam and the ankle lock to Kurt, including the leg lace. Jeff stands up for some reason and Kurt rolls through into the ankle lock with the lace and Jeff taps.

Rating: B+. Very good match here and mostly worthy of a main event of a PPV, but at the same time it never hit that epic

level that they were looking for. Anderson vs. Angle at the next PPV should be ok but we've seen it before. At least it hasn't happened recently though so that helps. This was a rather good match here and a fitting match for the final battle. Good match, but not quite great.

Overall Rating: B-. Overall this was good but at the same time there were some rather questionable booking decisions on this show. The Bischoff thing I'm not sure about at all but that's coming on Impact I guess. Ray vs. AJ was freaking stupid after the great match which doesn't surprise me in the slightest. Overall it's good, but some of the booking and the first hour being pretty weak overall hurts it. Still good though and one of the better TNA shows in a good while.

Results

James Storm/Alex Shelley b. British Invasion – Sliced Bread #2 to Magnus

Matt Morgan b. Scott Steiner – Carbon Footprint

Abyss b. Brian Kendrick and Kazarian – Abyss pinned Kazarian after a leg lariat from Kendrick

Crimson b. Samoa Joe – Red Sky

Mickie James b. Angelina Love – Jumping DDT

Bully Ray b. AJ Styles – Styles couldn't answer the ten count

Mr. Anderson b. Sting – Mic Check

Kurt Angle b. Jeff Jarrett – Ankle Lock

Fall Brawl 1996 – And So It Begins

Fall Brawl 1996

Date: September 15, 1996

Location: Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Winston Salem, North Carolina

Attendance: 11,300

Commentators: Dusty Rhodes, Bobby Heenan, Tony Schiavone

WOW that's a long name for a place to hold a show. This show is about two things: War Games and Sting. Six days before this, Sting had been announced as being in Japan for that day so he would NOT be at Nitro. Ok, fine. So later on in the night, Luger went chasing after someone in the NWO and ran into the parking lot where the NWO limo awaited. And out pops Sting. My jaw went through the floor when I saw it as a kid.

It turns out though that it's a fake Sting and that the real guy really was in Japan. The deal here though is that even though we knew he was in Japan, he looked a lot like the real Sting so the WCW guys believed he had really turned until he told them otherwise. This was stupid from both sides. One: it was established he was in Japan.

If that's the case, why wouldn't they believe him? Second, can you blame them for believing it was him at least for awhile? Does NO ONE watch film anymore? So yeah the main event is NWO vs. WCW in War Games and neither team knows who the fourth guy for their team is, which makes things a bit odd but whatever. Let's get to it.

The opening video is of course about the war between the two organizations. Oh and Giant has joined since the last show. Other than that it's just about the chaos the NWO has been going off about in the last few months. We see the video from

Sting "turning" and Eric FREAKING is great. We also see them destroying a car last night with their bats. Why were they never arrested?

Diamond Dallas Page vs. Chavo Guerrero

Well this is an odd pairing. DDP is a heel still and is feuding with both Guerreros at this point. Chavo is almost brand new here having been in the company like five months and is TINY here. He hit the gym over the years and filled out a lot which is good for him as he looks pretty pathetic here. There are two rings here and they're in the left one.

Chavo goes off on him early on the floor and whips him with a belt that I have no idea where he got. Apparently Eddie won the Battlebowl ring at Clash of the Champions from DDP so at least they've set this match up. This is a real contrast of styles as Chavo is young and fast and DDP is really bad at this point still. He's pretty much the prime example of a guy that started off as horrible and just clawed his way up to being a quite good wrestler that was popular as well.

He kind of had a gimmick change but it was really more that he turned face and got confidence. He hits a top rope clothesline to really take over as Dusty is having way too much fun here. DDP hooks a nice little rolling move as he's improving at this point. To be fair though he was horrible before this so an improvement is hard to avoid. He had some flashes of good stuff though and you could see it here.

Not that we've been told this or anything as it's all about the main event here even though we've already bought the PPV in theory so it's not like it needs to be hyped or anything. In a nice move (again) he sets for a belly to back suplex but just spins him over so he lands face first. That was very nice. Chavo makes his comeback with really basic stuff and some jumping stuff but again he's a relative rookie here so there we are.

He kind of messes up a hurricanrana but it wasn't terrible I guess. And now we're in the other ring and Tony actually asks if this could be a count out. That's....actually an interesting question as they're in a different ring but they're still in a ring. The fans are rising up for rollups. That's a good sign and then they cheer loudly for a Helicopter Bomb by DDP for two. In a creative ending, DDP stomps on Chavo's foot and gets the Diamond Cutter to a NICE face pop. His turn was coming very soon.

Rating: C+. Nothing too special here but not bad at all. DDP was getting better and better every time he had a big match and this was one of them. He still wasn't that good, but you could see a lot of promise in him. He had the good music and the great finisher so he was well on his way. Once he turned face though, it was all awesome as his feud with Savage was one of the highlights of WCW. We'll get to that soon enough.

SPECIAL REPORT

Gene talks about the NWO and what they've done. Uh, why are we seeing this now? Why would we need to see this if we've bought the show already? Couldn't there be a match in this time or something? It's a GREAT video that explains the first few months of the angle perfectly, but why are we watching this now?

Ice Train vs. Scott Norton

This is a submission match. Again I have to ask WHY? Is there anyone that thinks we need to see two matches between these guys? I was a semi-mark for Ice Train though so I'm not completely furious. Teddy Long of all people is managing Ice Train. Has this guy ever not been on a roster somewhere? He's FAT looking here which is just bizarre considering what he looks like now. Train works on the arm which makes sense at least.

Now he uses...let's call it a chinlock and be nice. Tony points

out that Norton is using the same move that another guy uses for a finisher which might be bad but I'm not sure. They need to pick a freaking body part and STICK WITH IT. Norton has worked the arm, the back and the neck and now the arm again. Teddy comes in and distracts and a full nelson ends Norton. At least it wasn't that long.

Rating: F+. Seriously, THIS gets 7 minutes of PPV time? Why? Who thought this was a good use of PPV time? Having them do one match at Hog Wild at least made sense, but did we really need to see these two in a gimmick match, especially THIS gimmick? I don't think so.

Mexican Heavyweight Title: Konnan vs. Juventud Guerrera

Ok a lot to talk about here. For one thing, the Mexican Heavyweight Title is the AAA Americas' Title, a title that was a midcard title that Konnan was the first to win. He won it then bailed to WCW with it so they just didn't talk about it any more. He's also a heel now with the whole street thing going on and has joined the Dungeon of Doom so he has Jimmy Hart with him. As for Juvy, he's brand new here, having been around about three weeks.

There was also an internet rumor that he was actually Sean Waltman under the mask which is about as bizarre of a story as I've ever heard of. He trips over the steps during his intro in a funny thing, so maybe there was a reason for that story after all. Oh yeah we actually have a match to do now. Konnan is now described as a big man. That's just odd to hear. In a painful looking spot, Konnan picks him up and just drops him over the top to the floor.

Juvy goes to the other ring and hits a QUADRUPLE jump leg lariat to take over. Take that Sabu. This is back when Konnan was motivated and therefore was actually interesting to watch as well as entertaining. The commentary just stops for like 30 seconds. That was strange. I'm watching a WCW show where there

is decent wrestling going on.

Never mind on that strange comment. Juvy is flying all over the place here and it's surprisingly working for me. Tenay calls the rope the top strand. Ok then. They botch the heck out of a moonsault press. I'd put that on Konnan though as it looked fine but Konnan didn't sell it at all. He hits a great powerbomb to make up for it I guess. There's a good deal of sloppiness here but for the most part it's working.

In a STUPID move, Juvy has him set for a top rope rana and instead just backflips off the top. Konnan hits a dropkick immediately as he lands which Juvy freaking deserves. Dang that looked stupid. The masked dude hits a springboard spinwheel kick which is one of my favorite moves. 450 hits for two. A corkscrew splash gets two as for some reason the crowd is dead all of a sudden. Konnan hits what we would call a Musclebuster for two and then a super powerbomb from the top for the pin.

Rating: B-. This gets a much better grade if not for the sloppiness. I thought it worked quite well though for what they were trying to do. This was another example of WCW throwing some people out there and seeing what they could do. On that level I would say it definitely worked. Again though, the constant botches were hurting it. There was some good stuff though so I'd say it was good.

Chris Benoit vs. Chris Jericho

Yeah this works. Again you can see the solid lower and midcard guys having the best matches and then the main event stuff being pure drama that was epic. With this kind of combination, there was no chance for any other company to touch WCW. The announcers imply that Benoit could be the fourth WCW guy in case Sting has jumped.

Benoit uses the Liontamer (as in the more painful looking one) before Jericho adopted it which is very weird looking. Dusty

thinks there could have been 20 men in that limo with Sting, somehow managing to rival the in ring match for entertainment value. It's so weird seeing a motivated Jericho in WCW. He goes for a springboard move but lands BACK FIRST on the apron on the way down. Freaking OW.

You can see the star in Jericho begging to be let out. Sadly it would never happen in this company. Bobby says you can hear those chops in Vietnam. What's in that cup he's drinking? According to Joey Styles it was vodka so there we go. Benoit is a Horseman here so he's incredibly popular as we're in Horsemen country, which is always odd to me since they were the top heels in that area for the most time.

This is Jericho's PPV debut so he's brand new as well. Let the chopping begin! Heenan is a bit tipsy already I think. The headbutt hits but it's more like a splash, which works just fine too. That's a perk of having a move such as that as if it's botched like that it still looks fine. Apparently he was going 65-70 miles an hour too. I love WCW commentary at times.

And of course we get a line about the Shell Answer Man which Tony of course tries to explain, going from entertaining to ARE YOU KIDDING ME mode in seconds. Jericho goes Canadian as Heenan makes the Shell joke again. Tombstone hits Benoit but the Lionsault doesn't. Dusty makes the comment that Jericho would be a big star in WCW.

That's one for two I guess, but he had an eye for talent at least. He also says Benoit is the best pound for pound athlete in WCW but forget the pound for pound aspect. Benoit hits a belly to back off the top to knock Jericho the heck out for the pin.

Rating: B. This was a very physical match that told a good story: Jericho is the rookie that has nothing at all to lose and Benoit is the hot young guy that is looking to make a statement. These two should have headlined a bunch of PPVs,

but alas we got Hogan vs. Savage about a million times instead.

Both of these two wound up main eventing Wrestlemania though so I think they had what it took, despite the old guys saying otherwise. Anyway, this was a very good match, but seriously, did you expect anything else?

Cruiserweight Title: Super Calo vs. Rey Mysterio

Thankfully Tenay is here for this but his mic doesn't work. That leaves Heenan and Dusty to make their bad jokes about nothing in particular. Calo always looked kind of fat to me for some reason. He's listed at 200lbs but I have some issue with that. He has a backwards hat on but I think the sunglasses are painted on his mask. So he's the Blue Meanie? Some idiot chants boring a minute into the match.

Apparently his name comes from a big rap group in Mexico. Ok then. Rey is more or less the king of the hurricanrana so that's the majority of his offense. He does the 619 but it's more or less a taunting thing at this point. Calo hits a slingshot powerbomb which is a cool looking move. Calo hits an overhead senton to the floor onto Rey who is down. FREAKING OW! Calo is dominating here which isn't expected by either myself or Rey.

Someone must have slipped Heenan some coffee as he's far more coherent all of a sudden. We hear about some Lucha de Apuestas matches which is a new one on me in WCW (meaning I've never heard them talked about, not that I don't know what they are). Rey finally comes back but Calo hits a dropkick to block his springboard something. It's been probably 90-10 Calo here as he's dominated.

Rey hits an INSANE rana with like 4 different bounces and springboards in it. This is why Rey used to be my favorite wrestler. Rey gets a springboard sunset flip for two as Bobby keeps trying to talk about the NWO and is actually ignored for

the most part. That's a different one also. Finally Rey hits a double springboard into the West Coast Pop for the pin.

Rating: B-. This was good but it went on WAY too long. This gets three minutes cut out and it's way better. Calo was never really much of anything, but he's another example of a guy that got a chance in WCW and since he was brand new to the American audience, he was considered cool because he wasn't like what was being seen.

That's the brilliance of Bischoff in the day: throw so much at them so fast they can't tell if it's good or bad. The ending was well thought out though so it worked. There's your difference between Bischoff and Russo.

Tag Titles: Harlem Heat vs. Nasty Boys

Heat have the belts here. So we go from Benoit, Jericho and Mysterio to this. Ok then. We get clubbing as Dusty LOSES it. That was kind of funny. I had to do this match about 5 times in 94 and 95 so I really don't care that much about it here. Double teaming allows the champions to take over. Knobbs and Stevie run the ropes and it's painful to see. Knobbs is so out of shape it's pathetic.

And let's get a chinlock now because this match is so riveting otherwise. Also throughout the match Sherri and Colonel Parker keep interfering to get on my nerves. I'm just killing time here until we get to the next two matches as they're the "meat" of the show with War Games and Savage vs. Giant. Why was Savage not thrown into War Games? They didn't have a fourth guy and you have Randy Savage in a nothing match with the Giant?

Does this make anything resembling sense? Sags hits a piledriver which has Bobby freaking out over them using a move. That wasn't a piledriver but whatever. Parker trips Sags up to switch momentum again and I just do not care at all. END THE FREAKING MATCH ALREADY!

It's been ten minutes so far and it's all brawling and stuff like that with a ton of interfering from the managers. END THIS. Knobbs gets like the 8th hot tag of the match and I'm barely paying attention at this point since the belts aren't changing hands. FINALLY a cane shot from Booker to Knobbs ends this idiocy. Move on PLEASE.

Rating: F. Oh just no. Who thought that these guys deserved 15 minutes? This was just boring and NO ONE cared at all. This was terrible and deserves to fail.

Savage guarantees he'll beat the Giant and then beat Hogan at Halloween Havoc.

Randy Savage vs. The Giant

Savage is wearing a Nitro T-shirt. Great way to make your #1 contender look like a jobber. Giant still has the Dungeon of Doom music here. Tony and Bobby are just funny as far as the anti-NWO stuff goes. Savage wisely doesn't let him get in the ring to start us off. And then he goes to the floor to fight. WHY DOES EVERYONE TRY TO SLAM BIG MEN? It's A BODY SLAM.

It's hardly some big epic move that's going to kill someone or explode their kidneys. It's a freaking body slam. Giant says he's going to make Savage disappear. Is he a magician all of a sudden? Giant hooks a back breaker hold as all of the fans are looking at something more interesting. Even the announcers point it out. And now it's a Boston Crab. Yes, a guy the size of the Giant is using Rick Martel's hold.

Can we just get to War Games now? Savage actually slams him in the only power display I've ever seen from him. He hits the elbow and doesn't cover to allow the storyline to go forward. And here's Hogan who he chases after. Yep, Hall distracts him and Nash pops him with a chair. Beatdown commences, Nick Patrick sees nothing of course, and Giant gets a simple pin.

Rating: D. This was short and bad. At least it wasn't that

long and now we're down to War Games so I can't complain. This somehow was supposed to build up to Halloween Havoc but whatever. At least this wasn't that long and now I'm repeating myself out of boredom. Considering how awesome the first hour and 45 minutes or so went, the last half hour has been AWFUL.

The cage is lowered. This is always cool.

Flair, Anderson and Luger say their usual stuff. Flair is asked who will be the fourth man but doesn't say a name. He almost implies there won't be a fourth. Anderson starts talking a bit, but here's Sting. He says it wasn't him and Luger says he looked him right in the eyes and knows it was him. Maybe he should have gotten his eyes checked. Sting says he'll see Luger in awhile. Other than a promo the next night on Nitro, he wouldn't speak again until January 98.

Before we get going, here are the rules. It's 4 on 4 (although we don't know who the fourth guy is for either team as Sting has apparently been thrown out). They both send in a man in each to begin for five minutes. At four minutes in there's a coin toss (the heels literally never lost) to determine control.

After the first five minute period ends, the team that won the toss sends in its second man and they have a 2-1 advantage. This lasts two minutes and after that two minutes the losing team sends in its second man making it 2-2. They alternate for two minute periods until all 8 are in and then it's first submission (no pins) wins.

War Games: Team NWO vs. Team WCW

So far it's Hogan, Hall and Nash vs. Flair, Anderson and Luger. You know there's a huge angle coming when Hogan, Hall, Nash and Giant vs. Flair, Anderson, Luger and Sting isn't the best they can do. That's a SICK sounding War Games when you think about it, but that's not the best they can do. Scott Hall is first for the NWO and he has DiBiase with him.

Anderson starts for WCW. That promo from Sting was the first time he had been seen in 6 days.

To be fair, maybe he couldn't get a flight back from Japan. Maybe I should stop thinking about it so much. We keep hearing about how awesome the Horsemen are in this match. Did they ever win one? Hall beats him up to start. Well that went well. Dusty cheering for Anderson is just wrong on so many levels. Nick Patrick is the referee. Bobby freaks out over who the fourth man is for the NWO and how unfair it is for them not to tell WCW who the fourth man is.

Tony: they don't know our fourth man either. Arn gets the figure four for like 3 seconds which is just odd. The problem is that Arn vs. Hall really isn't that interesting of a match. The key thing here is that it looks like an awesome structure and it really is. Patrick threatens to end the match right now much to the announcers' chagrins. We hit two minutes left. The NWO of course wins the coin toss.

There's the spinebuster on Hall and then a half crab which Hall taps to. It's Nash in second and after about 9 seconds Arn goes down to a big boot. Nash hits Snake Eyes, and he was the guy that actually gave it that name when he was Vinny Vegas back in the early 90s. Luger jumps the gun and they realize there's nothing they can do about it so there we are. He's wearing black boots which is kind of weird looking.

He beats up both Outsiders for awhile and Arn is back up now. There's a formula to these matches and to be fair it worked so there was no real need to ever change it. Heenan points out that everyone should just come out here now. WCW dominates as we have 15 seconds left.

Hogan is 3rd so it's the original three vs. Luger and Anderson. Hogan goes off on Arn which is a match that happened a lot on Nitro in 96 actually. The fans want Flair as Anderson is beating Hogan up. That's a new one. Hogan drops the leg on

Anderson and we're still waiting on Flair. There he is to an ERUPTION. It's North Carolina. Did you expect anything else?

Flair stays in the empty ring and calls out Hogan. Dusty then cracks me up to the point where I have to stop the video. "One on one, I don't know if Hogan can beat Flair." WOW. I don't think Flair has ever beaten Hogan, but all of a sudden Hogan can't beat him. That's just hilarious. We go split screen when for once we actually should. Flair goes low on everyone and WCW is in control again.

"Sting" is the fourth man in the NWO. This became a running joke as there would be like a million fake Stings over the years, ranging from Chris Harris to guys as tall as Nash and somehow the announcers could never tell. There's another referee in there now too. The fans, having basic intelligence and passable vision, of course get the idea as they chant WE WANT STING.

Another way to tell is that Sting has always had a very unique striking style. Pop in some Sting tapes and you'll see what I'm talking about. Oh and Tony offers a pearl of wisdom by saying the one man advantage has been the deciding factor. The clock runs out and it's the real Sting. His pop is better than Flair's so take that for what it's worth. He beats the living crap out of the NWO on his own and stares down Luger.

He leaves, asking if that's good enough. The NWO destroys them afterwards with Sting putting on a Scorpion and Hogan making sure he gets some credit by throwing on a horrible front facelock for the "submission." In a scary line, Heenan says that hold could make Luger lose the use of his legs, which of course he has in real life. Luger crawls towards the back, screaming for Sting.

And now he gets beaten up even worse. The Horsemen keep fighting but it's 4-2 at this point so it doesn't mean much. Savage runs out and he goes straight for Hogan. Hogan runs and

here's the Giant. The beatdown is on and it's bad for Savage. Here's Liz to do...something. She tries to cover up Savage and gets painted with the words 4 Life on her dress. I'm sure there's a joke there.

The fans think he sucks and he wants a mic. He talks about how they said they would be together until death do them part and he says he'll make that happen then SPITS ON LIZ. WOW. Yeah he's eternally punished. Tony says this is the lowest WCW has ever reached. Oh you don't want to go there dude.

This company had the Ding Dongs for crying out loud. Giant says he's the best artist in the world. This needs to end. And now the NWO takes over the announce position in the middle of the announcers complaining about life in general. The show ended over ten minutes after the match ended.

Rating: C+. This match is about getting to the ending. The wrestling itself is just boring though. However, it's War Games, which makes it awesome by association. The match was of course second to the ending but it worked out fine for what it was. This was about setting up Sting and the biggest angle in company history and it certainly worked in that regard. It built to that point so I can't complain.

Overall Rating: B. Other than the AWFUL tag title match, there isn't really anything that bad on here. There are a ton of good and entertaining matches in play here and every one of them worked just fine. Also, other than the Savage match and the submission match, everything here is at least thirteen minutes long.

They let the guys go out there and work and it came off very well. This would become the system used for a LONG time in WCW: awesome midcard, terrible main stuff and while it started out awesome, ultimately it ended WCW for reasons we'll get to later. Overall though, very good show and well worth checking out. Just fast forward the tag title stuff.

Smackdown – June 10, 2011 – Nice Long Main Event

Smackdown

Date: June 10, 2011

Location: Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke, Virginia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

With Christian apparently a heel now, it should be interesting to see where he goes. It's pretty clear that they're setting up for Christian/Orton III at the PPV which is probably their best bet. Other than that there isn't much to talk about here. Everything seems to be going along as it always does, which is a good thing as no one can really run a TV show like Smackdown does at this point. Let's get to it.

We open with a clip of last week with Christian apparently turning heel and bashing Orton's head in with the title. The dramatic music is a nice touch here.

Speaking of the Canadian here he is. He talks about how the fans that boo him get it apparently because he was screwed out of winning the championship just five days out of winning it. He was also screwed out of being #1 contender two weeks ago so he was justified in what he did last week, which draws booing. Christian says he is done with all the people, his so called "peeps". He doesn't want to talk to them ever again. There's a solid evil smile on his face here too which is really selling the heel turn.

The one person he does want to talk to is sitting over here, and his name is Michael Cole. Christian calls Cole into the ring and has something to say in general and not specifically

to Cole. Christian talks about how he doesn't get the fans. These are the people that went off on the internet about how he lost the title and how unfair it is but now they're blasting him for what he did last week. He doesn't get how the fans cheering went.

Let's talk about Bob in accounting. If Bob is up for a big promotion, he should get it on the basis of his merit, not by going out and asking people on the street if he should get it. That's what Teddy did by asking the fans. It's disrespectful to Christian to have Teddy do that. He's been disrespected by one person in particular: Randy Orton. A real man wouldn't have taken that title shot five days after a ladder match.

Christian asks Cole for a favor since he's not talking to the people. He wants Cole to ask the people if they think he deserves to be the world heavyweight champion. Great heat for him mentioning that. Cole asks the fans and the booing isn't as loud. Wow so he has Cole beaten already. Christian calls the fans clueless and says he'll be champion again. When he does it, it'll be for himself and not for them. With that, he leaves. Very solid heel turn speech here as there's total logic to what he's saying and the delivery was great. This was one of the better ones I can remember in a very long time.

Corre vs. Ezekiel Jackson/Usos

What an odd face tag team. Jackson wants Barrett to start but gets Slater instead. Jackson of course runs over him and brings in let's say Jey. Slater gets beaten from one side of the ring to the other and brings in Gabriel to face apparently Jimmy. Does it really matter? Gabriel is an extremist apparently. Booker compares the Usos to Harlem Heat. That's a surprising pairing to be sure.

Booker spent about six months with the Usos before. Corre

speeds things up and sends the Usos to the floor and into the table. We take a break for a don't try this at home video. Can't make fun of that. Back with Barrett stomping away at "one of the Usos" as apparently Josh can't tell them apart either. Boss Man Slam gets two. Let's say that's Jimmy (bet that's wrong but again does it matter?) playing Ricky Morton for awhile so I guess that makes Slater Bobby Eaton?

Hot tag to Jackson and Barrett runs off, bringing in Gabriel. Jackson starts the slams and Barrett tries to bail. Slater yells at him but he walks off anyway. Slams all around and the Usos add a double superkick (how has that never been a tag team finisher? I know the Rockers used it at times but not as a finisher) to Slater and the Torture Rack ends Gabriel at 6:45 shown of 10:15 shown. Barrett vs. Jackson for the title at the PPV.

Rating: C. Just a run of the mill six man here to further the Corre splitting up. Nothing wrong with that at all as I think it leads to the Jackson title reign at the PPV, which it probably should do. Anyway, the Usos were a surprising addition here and the whole thing was fine. Right in the middle sounds fine.

Teddy is on the phone and apparently making bets on horse racing. Sheamus comes in and Teddy pretends that he's talking to his wife. I wonder if that betting thing is going anywhere. Anyway Sheamus wants Christian tonight and Teddy says no. Instead Teddy makes it Orton vs. Sheamus, no DQ. Sheamus likes that as he's smiling about it, but the visual is really weird here as the camera zooms in on his face like Teddy has left or the shot is ending but it pulls back to see Teddy just looking at him. Unintentional comedy works every time.

Gabriel and Slater want an explanation and Barrett says they're nothing without him. The tag team says you're about to find out because the Corre is done.

Trent Barreta vs. Jinder Mahal

I can never spell Barreta right the first time. Always add an extra T. Mahal's legs are almost creepy looking from being so long. We have the makings of another squash here and the height that Trent gets on a backdrop is great. He gets a shot in to break Mahal's momentum and tries what looks like a moonsault, but Khali provides the distraction. Full nelson slam ends this at 1:29. More or less a squash. Vice Grip to Trent post match.

Some young clueless putz gets to talk to AJ who is all perky and cute and I can't help but smile. Before she gets anywhere Tamina and Rosa come up to give her cheese, because she's a little mouse. AJ says Laycool called and wants their gimmick back. The evil ones say AJ will be alone tonight but Natalya comes up and the heels leave.

Tamina vs. AJ

AJ has music now. Tamina tries to overpower her but AJ gets a quick dropkick in. That gets her nowhere so Tamina slams her and we hit the armbar. Booker flat out says he can't focus because of Rosa's short dress in front of him. Sounds far less creepy than Lawler here. Apparently Natalya took AJ and Kaitlyn paintballing. Think Cole has fun with that line? Tamina puts her in a fireman's carry but yells at Natalya too much and AJ rolls down her back and gets a rollup for the pin at 2:00. Dang she has nice abs.

We see a shorter version of the opening video about Christian to set up this.

Here's Orton but this isn't for his match apparently. He wants Christian to come out here right now and explain this.

Christian pops up on the screen and says ask the fans if that's what they want. He imitates Teddy in a funny bit and says he's not coming out here. Christian wants one more match but Orton says he doesn't care.

Christian talks about how he could have counted Orton down last week but didn't want to face Sheamus for the title. He wants Orton, because he knows he can beat him. Orton wants Christian RIGHT NOW but Christian says on his terms, not anyone else's. They make the match at Capitol Punishment. Christian gets in his car and leaves, more or less guaranteeing he'll be here for later.

DiBiase and Rhodes make Anthony Weiner jokes. Cody wants to know if he can call the shots out there tonight and Ted takes exception. Rhodes talks about having money and women in Legacy and Ted says then you got your face messed up and went nuts. Cody casually shouts for a bagger and has the bagger put the bag on his own (the bagger's) head. Cody says he's not nuts but prematurely enlightened. Now he feels free and while he may be nuts, he may also be a genius. This was odd to say the least.

Sin Cara vs. Ted DiBiase

I'd have bet on this being the tag that was more or less set up last week. No Bryan in sight but Cody and the baggers are with Ted here. There go the lights which I don't get. It kind of made sense for Kane but I don't get it at all with Cara. Fast start of course as Cara gets a pretty awesome but completely overdone armdrag. Ted gets a boot up in the corner to take Cara down. Cara gets in a shot and sets for a springboard something but Cody pulls him down and it's a DQ at 1:50.

Bryan runs out for the save and Teddy makes the tag match.

Daniel Bryan/Sin Cara vs. Ted DiBiase/Cody Rhodes

Well at least they didn't waste much of our time on the one on one. There's a break before the match. The match is in progress when we come back with Bryan hitting an arm drag to DiBiase. LeBell Lock can't go on as Ted runs to the corner and brings in Cody. Cody gets in an argument with the referee and walks into a missile dropkick by Cara. Cara gets sent shoulder first into the post and here comes Rhodes.

Never mind as it's off to Ted. He only came a little. Make your own jokes there. Ted works on the injured arm but gets caught in a cross armbreaker. Cara rolls it into the ropes though so it doesn't really mean anything. Cody comes in and works on the arm while the referee speaks Spanish. Single arm DDT gets two. This match is awkward for some reason and I can't put my finger on why.

Ted works on the arm now as we talk about Booker getting back in the ring on Monday. Back off to Cody as I think the problem is the former Legacy isn't staying in long enough to make anything work really. Cara tries to speed it up and hits an enziguiri to put Cody down. Double tags to Bryan and DiBiase and Bryan takes over. Even Cole is complimenting him here. Cara hits a suicide dive to take Cody out and Bryan jumps off the middle rope into a guillotine and then into the LeBell Lock for the tap at 6:30.

Rating: C-. I didn't like this at all for the most part but it was technically fine. The formula was there for the most part but I couldn't get into it at all. The rating is probably low but at the same time it just didn't draw me in at all. Very awkward match for some reason which I think might have been due to Cara and Bryan never really being on offense other than at the end and a brief bit at the beginning.

Johnny Curtis has a chip on his shoulder. Like a potato chip. He eats the chip and that's about it. I spent 15 weeks watching NXT for this. I hate my life, I have my life.

Orton talks about his past anger management issues and says this match will help him.

Randy Orton vs. Sheamus

No DQ remember. Sheamus goes straight at him like a good monster heel and hammers him down. Orton gets his non-Thesz Press to take over. They head to the floor as Orton sends Sheamus into the barricade. Sheamus hammers away but Orton gets a dropkick up to block the slingshot shoulder block and we head back to the floor. He puts Sheamus' head on the steps and tries to stomp down but since that would more or less kill him, Sheamus pulls him down and rams Orton's head into the steps as we take a break.

Back with Sheamus having that crossface chickenwing on but shifting to a chinlock rather quickly. Ok back to the crossface. Pick a hold dude. Orton fires off a headbutt of all things to escape. Sheamus takes him down again and back to the same hold. There's the slingshot shoulder for two. Again with the chickenwing but now it's off to a regular chinlock one more time.

Ok make that a headlock. At least this time Orton gets a belly to back to break up the monotony. Orton hammers him down and it's a slugout again. Orton fires off and hits his powerslam but Sheamus heads to the floor. Sheamus is sent into the barricade but reverses to send Orton into the steps. Both guys are down but it's Sheamus up first. Into the ring

and Sheamus brings the steps with him.

Orton counters with the backbreaker for two. The steps are pulled into the middle of the ring but Sheamus pulls him into the middle buckle and stomps away. Austin would be proud of those. Sheamus can't powerslam Orton onto the steps but Orton gets one onto them to put the pale one down. The steps are shoved aside and Sheamus hits the Irish Curse for two.

Sheamus heads to the floor and pulls out a kendo stick. He beats the tar out of Orton with it but can only get two. The crowd is rapidly getting into this. Sheamus throws the stick away and sets for the Brogue Kick. Orton avoids it though and Sheamus' foot is caught in the ropes. Randy picks up the stick and unloads on Sheamus, hitting probably twenty shots or so. Orton has that crazy look in his eyes and it's the elevated DDT.

He loads up the RK0 but Christian runs in. He can't hit the Killswitch though and Randy can't hit the RK0. Sheamus takes Randy's head off with a running double axe handle and it's time for the High Cross. Orton escapes and ducks the Brogue Kick. RK0 hits but Christian blasts him with the belt and Sheamus crawls on top for the pin at approximately 17:12 shown of 21:14. The video was jumping around a lot on the site I was using so this is as good of a guess as I can give it.

Rating: B+. I rather liked this as they didn't have a really boring part other than in the very middle with Sheamus using a ton of rest holds. Still though it worked rather well as they've apparently figured out how to not bore us to tears. The ending here works also because Orton had the win until Christian interfered. I like this ending as it makes Christian seem like he's getting under his skin through action instead of doing whatever Anderson is trying to do to Sting at the moment. Fun and solid match.

Christian holds up the belt to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Good show but a step down from last week. They continue to have the perfect pacing as far as matches to promos and we got a ton of wrestling here. Not as good as last week but still quite good, especially with the majority of stuff already set up for the PPV, which is the main idea at this point. Good show but not great.

Impact Wrestling – June 9, 2011 – Gunner Pinned Sting. Yeah, Really.

Impact Wrestling

Date: June 9, 2011

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

It's the go home show for Slammiversary and we have most of the card set up already. With Foley now fired and apparently legit gone from the company, it appears that Immortal is back in control again. Also we're likely to get the final push to Sting vs. Anderson which will see Sting/Young vs. Anderson/Gunner. Anyway, let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week of Foley being fired and Immortal having full power again. Hogan is looking extra orange here.

Hogan and Bischoff open the show. Hulk says that the Network finally woke up and got rid of the selfish Foley. Eric says that Foley did have a few good ideas such as the name of the

show and that wrestling matters. Eric assures us that the X Division is going to be presented in a fair and balanced manner. First up though he wants the contenders in the world title match to come down here right now.

Here are Anderson and Sting. Hogan talks about how awesome this company is now. They're not going to go through this with the Network again. Hogan gave his word apparently and he meant it. At Slammiversary there will be a winner and a loser with no gimmicks or agendas. Also there will be no run-ins. If either guy has a problem with that speak now.

Anderson raises his hand and says that he's been making fun of Sting for weeks because everything Sting stands for is a joke. Anderson is in this for Anderson and on Sunday, he's getting the title back. Sting says he's got a lot he's going to do about that. There are a lot of things he wants to do around here and he's going to do them because he's champion. One of two things has to happen: Hogan and Bischoff have to leave or the real Hogan has to come back. He gets in Eric's face and calls him an infection, blaming him for Hogan being the way he is. Hogan needs to cut away the cancer, and he's certainly capable of it.

Knockouts are up next.

Mickie James/Tara vs. Winter/Angelina Love

Can we just get to the lesbian stuff already? Tara has the motorcycle back. Tara and Winter start us off. Angelina doesn't seem interested in tagging in so Mickie and Tara work on the arm. I guess Mickie is all cool about the whole Tara running her over a few months back thing. Off to Angelina who wants Mickie. Tara instead hits a spinning side slam and it's off to Mickie. They hit a wheelbarrow splash for one as Angelina does her zombie thing again.

With Tara accidentally distracting the referee, Winter is able to get a powerbomb in the corner on Mickie for two. The zombie chicks take over on Mickie now as she plays Ricky Morton for a bit. Mickie hammers back and that gets her nowhere. Blind tag brings in Angelina but Mickie hits a dropkick to take her down. Everything breaks down and Madison comes down to distract Tara, allowing Angelina to hit her backbreaker on Mickie for the pin at 4:45.

Rating: C. Not bad here but really just a standard tag match. It sets up the Mickie vs. Angelina match on Sunday which is fine. Nothing too bad but Madison might have been a bit too much out there. Angelina's chest looked great though so that balances out the questionable ending.

Beer Money and Shelley are ready for their match tonight and on Sunday.

Mexican America says they're tired of getting less every time.

We get a video of Samoa Joe and Crimson fighting in a bar which is filmed via phone apparently. Joe beats the tar out of him.

Jeff Jarrett gets here and doesn't want to talk about Karen so he walks off.

The Brits are on commentary here. Well at least Magnus is as Williams stands behind the desk.

Mexican America vs. Alex Shelley/James Storm

Anarquia and Shelley start us off. The champions I guess do some of the Guns' offense which Storm modifies for his own style. I like that as it plays up the best of both world dynamics. Shelley gets caught coming off the top and Hernandez hits his slingshot shoulder to take Shelley down. We keep cutting to Magnus talking so it's hard to see

everything that's going on.

Shelley tries to fight back but gets caught by the power of Hernandez. Slam sets up a missed splash off the top by Supermex and there's the tag to Storm and one to Anarquia also. Everything breaks down and Hernandez is knocked to the floor. Storm has Anarquia covered but the girls distract the referee. Sarita gets beer to the face and Shelley kicks Storm in the face, allowing Anarquia to get the pin on Storm at 4:30.

Rating: C. Pretty decent tag match here as we can see the problems that the guys unfamiliar with being partners. I liked how Shelley and Storm worked together out there but I'm not sure I get the point in having them lose. Have miscommunication and let them win still to make it look like they're having issues but can still win on Sunday. Either way not bad here.

Gunner comes in to see Anderson and Anderson asks for help against Sting, implying he'll repay the favor later. They're cool apparently.

Mexican America comes in to see Hogan and wants a title shot. Hogan gets all ticked off and says quit telling me what to do or he'll turn into the Terminator and play a game of Hulkster Says with the ladies. Mexican America is going to do something when Hogan least expects it. Ok then.

Preview of Angle/Jarrett with the main focus being on Angle. He says he's not worried about this Sunday and says that he can beat Jarrett this time because there will be no Karen to distract him.

We open the second hour with more talking of course, this time in the form of Jarrett and Angle. Jeff says Kurt is going to listen tonight rather than it being them going back and forth. Karen is gone apparently and won't be at the PPV. Jeff has had to think about that for seven days now and the

first thing he did was panic. He panicked over what Kurt will do to him when it's one on one. Jeff reminds everyone that he brought Kurt in and Kurt is the best in history.

However, Kurt never thanked Jeff for bringing him in. Kurt wasn't happy about being the best in the company and the real star. It was always about making people forget about Jeff. Then Jarrett wanted to take everything dear to Kurt, so he took his wife and kids. Now he wants to take away Kurt's place on top and he won't sleep until he owns it.

Kurt finally gets to talk and thanks Jeff for taking Karen out of his life for good. All he's ever wanted was Jeff one on one but Jeff had to keep bringing Karen into it. Kurt isn't wasting any more words on him because on Sunday, his wrestling will do the talking. Then Jeff will see how real this really is.

ODB doesn't like how Velvet presents herself and ODB will show Velvet what wrestling is tonight.

Kaz and Kendrick have Janice and are looking for Abyss. Kendrick says Abyss is his type of guy. They say they're going to go find him.

Bully Ray is here for an open challenge. On Sunday he'll be the last man standing because he's a man. I wonder if he's 40. The challenge is for everyone other than D-Von. Here's a surprising person to take it.

Rob Van Dam vs. Bully Ray

RVD does his poses and gets powerbombed out of the corner for two. All Ray so far as he uses his basic brawling stuff. RVD finally gets in a kick to send Ray into the corner. Monkey flip doesn't work and Ray hammers away again. AJ is chilling in the stands watching this. Ray hasn't seen him yet but he

does now. The distraction lets RVD recover long enough to counter the Piledriver. Springboard kick sets up the Five Star and we're done at 3:30.

Rating: C. This is barely gradeable as the majority was Ray hammering on RVD and then the AJ distraction. RVD had a total of about four moves in this. Remember a few weeks ago when he and Angle had one of the "biggest matches in Impact history"? And now he has a three and a half minute match with Bully Ray that he needs AJ to help him get through. Things change so fast in wrestling it's unreal.

We get a clip from English TV of Angle trying to get back on the Olympic team.

Kendrick and Kaz are still looking for Abyss and they actually find him reading The Art of War again. Abyss talks about how he doesn't need Janice anymore and calls the X Title the Extreme Title. There can be a three way at the PPV. Kendrick gets into a big philosophical rant and Kaz just leaves.

We run down the card for Slammiversary.

ODB vs. Velvet Sky

ODB isn't under contract apparently so she comes out next to the broadcast table. Sky jumps her before the bell and the brawl begins. Velvet is sent into the steps and hurts her knee as we finally head into the ring and start the actual match. ODB covers immediately but only gets two. This is a sloppy brawl and barely even a match at all.

Velvet can't get going due to the knee injury but has a chance to breathe due to ODB yelling at the referee. She argues even more and Velvet can't do anything. The announcers make stupid jokes and we get more arguing with the referee. Velvet finally wakes up and stomps away in the corner. Out to the

floor again and Velvet gets her back rammed into the post. Fall away slam sets up more yelling and Velvet grabs a DDT for the surprise pin at 5:12.

Rating: D. Didn't like this at all as it was about five minutes of stomping, choking and yelling. I guess that's the end of this feud and if so that's not saying very much. Pretty weak match here and the only real perk was Velvet looking good. Any match where I have to watch ODB slap her vagina is a bad one.

Eric Young is all stupid again and talks about unifying the titles and Who's The Boss before Sting yells at him again. He wants him to drop the comedy for one night and let the competitor come out.

We get a clip from Xplosion where D-Von and Pope have been having issues. Pope came out to save D-Von from Mexican America. D-Von doesn't like Pope being around his kids and wife.

And now let's have our main event.

Gunner/Mr. Anderson vs. Sting/Eric Young

Big match intros kill some time. The slow bell for this makes me chuckle for some reason. Sting vs. Anderson to start but we get the traditional fast tag from Anderson to bring in Gunner. Sting gets the splash in the corner very quickly and adds a second one, both of them to the back. Apparently the second was because a spot was messed up as after the first Sting intentionally turned his back to Anderson. He did it again the second time in the same spot and Anderson drilled him.

Anderson works over Sting in the corner now and it's off to Gunner again. He works on the ribs with an abdominal stretch

and here's Anderson again. Sting gets a clothesline and it's off to Eric who cleans a few rooms, adding a big top rope elbow to Gunner. He fakes blowing mist at Anderson but celebrates too much and is rammed into Sting. That counts as a tag somehow and Gunner hits the F5 on Sting for the pin at 6:00. Oh and Young celebrates on the floor.

Rating: D+. What in the world was that? Who in the world thought it was a good idea for Gunner of all people to get a pin on Sting to end the show? I don't get this at all and the main event is the longest match of the show at 6:00. Not a fan of that at all and I don't get what they're going for here in the slightest.

Back and Young doesn't get that they lost. Sting is mad.

AJ says the plan is coming together. Ray pops up and says he didn't back away. Agents break it up.

Sting gets something out of his bag and Anderson talks about how he didn't break a sweat. Sting comes up and Anderson runs. They go into a trailer and Sting beats him down then puts paint all over Anderson's face. This is Sting snapping I guess. He chokes Anderson out to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. Not a bad show tonight but it was rather paint by numbers. Nothing really happened here but it was a go home show for the PPV and they covered the big matches for it pretty well. That being said it was another match where everything kind of dragged which is never a good thing. Definitely not a bad show but really just kind of there at the end of the day. That main event brought it down though.

Results

Angelina Love/Winter b. Mickie James/Tara – Backbreaker to James

Mexican America b. Alex Shelley/James Storm – Anarquia pinned Storm after a superkick from Shelley

Rob Van Dam b. Bully Ray – Five Star Frog Splash

Velvet Sky b. ODB – DDT

Gunner/Mr. Anderson b. Sting/Eric Young – F5 to Sting

Kollision In Korea – Largest Crowd Ever. Period.

Kollision in Korea

Date: August 5, 1995

Location: May Day Stadium, Pyongyang, North Korea

Attendance: 150,000 (Day 1), 190,000 (Day 2)

Commentators: Eric Bischoff, Mike Tenay, Kazuo Ishikawa

So a lot of you have heard about the World Peace Festival that Inoki held that had over 300,000 people there. Well this is it. WCW filmed most of it and made it into a PPV. Now this was filmed back in April of 95 but it aired just after the NWO debuted. No idea why there was a delay but it did indeed occur. The crowd here is bigger than Mania 3 and nearly double that so it's indeed epically huge. The main event is Inoki vs. Flair, so let's get to it.

First off, anyone find it odd that a festival promoting PEACE is based on a violent sport? That always made me chuckle.

Regarding the crowd, allegedly the people were told to go or risk being shot. Given the insanity of their leaders, that wouldn't surprise me.

This aired on a Monday. I'm sure there was nothing else on TV at that time.

We're told that Koreans don't know much about professional wrestling. Good to know. And yet over 300,000 people showed up to see it. Yeah I'm sure there's nothing to that rumor of the government forcing the people to go at all. Not a thing. Oh and Sonny Onoo is named Mr. Ishikawa here and is just a normal person.

2 Cold Scorpio vs. Chris Benoit

Benoit is named Wild Pegasus here. Eric talks about how the lives in Korea are as so much is closed off to them and they have never seen anything like this. This really is something to see. New Japan is co-promoting with WCW here so you'll see a lot of puro in this. This is a pretty choreographed and gymnastics based match to start which the fans applaud.

It's so strange to see a totally new audience see something like this. If nothing else it's cool to see their reaction to seeing something like this which they've never seen before. Onoo is playing a heel here that only likes the Japanese guys. His voice is very hard to hear as he's really soft spoken. Benoit hits a jumping tombstone and the headbutt hits on Scorpio for the pin.

Rating: C+. These are hard matches to grade. There are no angles or anything to them as this is really just an exhibition and an attempt to expose wrestling to a brand new audience, even though they'll hardly ever see it again. That being said, I'm not expecting much from these matches, but it's nice to see. The grades will be far less harsh based on how these matches are going to be drawn up.

Yugi Nagata vs. Tokimitsu Ishizawa

Nagata you might know from a really boring run in WCW. Eric says they look alike and they're wearing identical tights.

This could be hard. This starts as a submission thing as Onoo talks about how much better this is.

Ok make that most of the match is submission stuff. You can hear the Japanese announcers over the American ones which makes things a bit complicated and hard to pay attention. The announcers are in Tokyo as they couldn't get into Korea. That's really hard to believe. I don't mean they're making it up but it's hard to fathom. This isn't much as far as a match goes but Nagata hooks a Crossface and that's it.

Rating: D. Even new rankings considered, this was pretty boring. Nagata was a guy that I never could get into at all. To be fair though in four minutes, how much can you really do? Still though, this wasn't much at all. It was all submission stuff but the commentary was far more interesting.

We see stuff from the buildup to this show, which is a lot of people in choreographed dancing etc. It's kind of cool I guess.

Masahiro Chono/Hiro Saito vs. El Samurai/Tadao Yasuda

The first team is using Rey Mysterio's future music. We talk about Chono's recent heel turn. Samauri is in the mask which should help me remember that. Chono and Yasuda start us off. Yasuda is a big old boy and of course you've heard of Chono. Muhammad Ali is supposed to be an important part of this show but we haven't seen him yet. Apparently this a compilation of two days of matches and we're just seeing the best stuff I guess. The rest wasn't filmed.

I figured something like that was the case. I've heard a lot about Samurai but haven't seen much of him. Chono hits the Mafia Kick and of course Eric knows nothing about it. Tony asks if it's called an Irish Whip in Japan. That's actually a good question. Thesz trained Chono. That explains a lot. Chono kicks him low three times in a row and Eric and Tenay try to analyze it. That's rather funny. Chono hits a shoulder

off the top for the pin Samurai.

Rating: C+. Better. This was probably the best match of the night so far because they gave it some time and had heels and faces in there. It was a very basic match but it came off as watchable. Other than this it's been just random pairings with no story at all. This wasn't much but by comparison it was solid.

We go to a package of Flair, Inoki, Ali and some other wrestlers touring Korea. This is cool. It's 15 seconds long but it's cool.

Bull Nakano/Akira Hokuto vs. Manami Toyota/Mariko Yoshida

This should be good. Bischoff points out the culture shock of this as women have little to no rights in Korea, which is very true. The more famous names here are far more aggressive as we're told that Nakano is a lot like Vader, who would have been about to main event Summerslam when this aired in America. Well it's a squash so far. I'm not entirely surprised. The smaller girls start using a lot more speed stuff and it's far more successful.

This has turned into a pretty decent match actually. We finally start busting out some high spots and it gets more fun. Toyota hits a nice moonsault for two. The heels finally realize they're about twice the size as the other girls and just beat the tar out of them and Nakano's leg drop ends it. Also Tenay, the legdrop and moonsault are not holds.

Rating: B-. This was FAR more fun than the rest of the card. Power vs. speed is pretty much the quintessential tag team combination and this one was that to the letter. This was actually a fun match with some good high spots and decent wrestling. I've seen some stuff from these four and I'd like to see more. Fun match.

IWGP Championship: Scott Norton vs. Shinya Hashimoto

I've heard a lot about Hashimoto and how much better Norton is in Japan. Hashimoto is champion here and comes out to what would become . We get a funny story about Norton having issues in Korea because everyone kept following him and making sure he didn't break any rules. Hashimoto is like 30 here so he's young and in solid shape. Norton of course is just a power guy.

Norton beats the tar out of him with basic power stuff but Hashimoto uses a bunch of great kicks to destroy him. Eric is in heaven explaining the physics of kicks etc. They talk about Hashimoto getting training in Canada at the same place as Benoit and Brian Pillman. That place would be more commonly know as the Hart Dungeon. The problem with Eric doing this is that he gets WAY too complex with the descriptions as he calls something like a spinning back leg round kick.

Translation: he kicked Norton in the head and spun a bit. We hear about a charity football game that the AWA held where Norton allegedly beat up Dave Caspar who is in the NFL Hall of Fame. Norton gets to no sell as he invites Hashimoto to kick him. Onoo is REALLY annoying as he talks about how smart Hashimoto is and how bad Norton is. He belongs in the IWC. Hashimoto does have some great kicks. I can't argue that.

I love the racism from Onoo as he talks about how the Japanese wrestler is better even though Norton was primarily a wrestler in Japan and had the majority of his success there. And let's hit that chinlock! We talk about bringing New Japan guys to WCW which would happen about 7 months after this. This is a decent match but the size of both guys is kind of hampering things a bit.

Both guys are big power guys and it makes the power moves look weaker as they can't throw the other guy around as much. We hear about how there has been no press in Korea (note that when I say Korea I'm referring to North Korea every time. South Korea has no bearing on this show whatsoever but I do

know the difference) since the end of the Korean War which was about 40 years ago at this point. That's very bizarre to think of.

This is getting mainstream international press though and while it's likely that a lot of this is being put on to make Korea look good and isn't really indicative of what the country is like, it's still saying a lot that wrestling managed to get inside the country first. Norton hits a top rope splash but the time limit expires as he's about to win the title. Hashimoto would lose the title to Great Muta about a week or two later.

Rating: C-. Pretty cheap ending but I can understand why they did it. The thing here like I said was the class of styles. This just didn't work as far as a good match goes. It was two power guys that didn't have much chemistry at all. That's never a good thing but it's nice to see a title match to give the match a bit of meaning.

We get a video about the festival which more or less was something like the opening ceremonies at the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Hawk vs. Tadao Yasuda

It's the same guy from the Chono tag match so I'm assuming this is from a different day. Hawk and Animal are big deals in Japan but Hawk usually teamed with Kensuke Sasaki in Japan and the team was called the Power Warriors. They do some sumo stuff and Yasuda loses. Hawk isn't very good on his own. He misses a top rope splash as Eric is getting into his traditional style. This is a great one apparently. I'm thinking no on that one. A top rope clothesline ends it.

Rating: N/A. I can't grade a 2 minute match, but if I did this one would be pretty bad. There just was nothing of note here and it was a total squash. Hawk was a big deal in Japan though so that's fine I guess.

Steiner Brothers vs. Kensuke Sasaki/Hiroshi Hase

The Steiners of course you know and Sasaki would actually win the US Title later in the year. Here the Steiners are actually NJPW guys. That's a weird thing to see. These teams had a GREAT match at the first New Japan/WCW Supershow. We'll get to that one soon. So far this is intense if nothing else. No one can accuse any of these guys of not working out there. Well they could but they would be incorrect.

Scott busts out an STF. And yes he knows more than 5 moves. I could watch this Scott Steiner throw suplexes all day. Oddly enough the Steiners are dominating here and are beating the heck out of Hase. Onoo of course says this isn't important. Hase comes back and hooks a Giant Swing on Rick.

Apparently he's famous for spinning people around a lot and his record is 44 spins. Ok then. Sasaki might have been in this for 30 seconds. He and Rick fight on the floor and in the ring, Scott hits the Steiner Screwdriver for the pin. For those of you that haven't seen that move, it might be the craziest move in history. Look it up.

Rating: B-. We got to see the Steiners look awesome, but this was almost a glorified squash. The Steiners as heels makes for a very odd showing but it pretty much works. The key thing to it is that they're really good wrestlers and can bust out a lot of stuff when they want to. This is one of those moments. The lack of competition hurt it for me though.

We see Flair and Inoki getting ready.

Ric Flair vs. Antonio Inoki

Any bets on who wins this one? Inoki actually has an experience edge in this. We hear about Flair's heel turn that was going on in America at this time which is kind of interesting. Inoki is the protégé of Rikidozan who is like the Hulk Hogan of Japan and was born in North Korea so this is a

very symbolic match. This is their first match ever actually so it's a cool thing.

The commentary is definitely being performed afterwards as they talk about stuff that happened later. We hit the mat to start so we're going with the basic stuff first. Ali is here and we hear about Ali vs. Inoki in the 70s which is considered to be one of the first mixed martial arts match. The crowd moves a bit for Inoki which is a real sign of respect. They're very quiet during the matches but would pop for the endings. I guess it's a cultural thing.

Bischoff talks about going out jogging with Inoki and getting tired after about half an hour due to the pace of Inoki. That's pretty cool. Flair is dominating for the most part here which is about what I expected to set up the big comeback win for Inoki. Oh like he's losing in the main event of the show he set up. Flair throws on an STF. Well ok then. Time to work on the leg. Eric talks about how evil Flair must look by trying to make a man not be able to walk.

And let's talk about Hogan. We're told that Hogan is better than Flair and so and so, which makes me ask the obvious question: Hogan isn't here...why? Oh that's right: he might not get cheered and worshipped. Figure Four goes on but there's little drama to it. I was looking away to type and they didn't even mention it going on. And now we punch it out. Inoki punching looks odd for some reason.

Flair goes up and of course it doesn't work. Bischoff says he thinks Flair might be getting tired. Has he ever watched a Flair match? Inoki was in his early 50s here so he's likely the one that's going to get tired. We're getting more or less a Flair match without much outside of the basics.

That's fine though as a vast majority of the fans here have never seen wrestling or especially Flair. Inoki Inokis Up and hits a few kicks and ends it with the Enziguri (one of his

finishers) to get the pin. Flair comes after him post match but shakes his hand.

Rating: B-. Not bad, but this was far more about closure to the show than anything else. It's certainly not a terrible match or anything but just not that great. Flair was having his first match in a long time here so he was a bit rusty. The lack of drama hurt it a bit but this worked for the most part and it made Inoki look good which is how this should have ended.

Overall Rating: C. This is an odd one to say the least. The wrestling is decent at best and boring at more realistic. This was far more of a spectacle than a show though and it worked very well I thought. This was about showcasing athletic competition to a whole new audience and on that level it worked.

Also factor in this was part of a festival promoting peace and I think in that respect it worked very well. This is worth seeing if you never have before as it's a sight if nothing else. It's about two hours long and it's on Youtube although that version of Flair and Inoki is clipped. Worth seeing, but not for the wrestling.

NXT – June 7, 2011 – Conor O'Brian Is A Boring Person

NXT

Date: June 7, 2011

Location: Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke, Virginia

Commentators: Todd Grisham, William Regal

I think we're in week fourteen here, which means we're a week shy of this being as long as any other season of this show. We have four people left so at least this is getting close to being done. I'm not sure what else they can do with these four left because we've watched them fight time after time now. They had a new idea last week so maybe they'll surprise me. Let's get to it.

The opening video is about Maryse and how the guys on this season have been obsessed with her and fighting over her. The idea here is that Cannon has Maryse in his corner so he has an advantage. Good to see someone other than O'Neil looking like they have a chance here.

JTG is in the ring here for a talk show segment apparently. Oh joy. It's called Straight Outta Brooklyn apparently. The guest is Yoshi Tatsu, because they're the two pros whose rookies are gone. Apparently people blame Yoshi for Saxton being gone. They do the thing where Yoshi is asked questions and the mic is pulled away before he can answer. We talk about Maryse and how she dumped Yoshi because he has no game (JTG: "I got more game than THQ.") Yoshi makes a Yo Mama joke because this is apparently the mid 90s. JTG jumps him as he's leaving, likely setting up a match later. Striker makes said match.

Yoshi Tatsu vs. JTG

The match is joined in progress. JTG hits a knee to the ribs for two and actually works on the ribs. Yoshi misses some chops and gets taken down again. JTG hits Jay Lethal's Lethal Injection neckbreaker for two. Regal mentions that next week is an elimination. That's a good sign at least. Yoshi fights up and strikes away, including a spinwheel kick to take JTG down. A big high kick misses though and JTG takes him down again. Yoshi fights back up and hits the aforementioned high

kick to end this at 5:31 shown.

Rating: C. Match was ok, but at the end of the day it's Yoshi Tatsu vs. JTG. This match redefines low stakes. It wasn't too bad or anything, but JTG is supposed to be a heel here and I tend to be more intimidated by a riled up cocker spaniel than him. Also great to see that a show about the rookies has gone over $\frac{1}{4}$ of it already with zero mention of them other than in a video which is mainly about Maryse.

Capitol Punishment ad wastes even more time. The only good part here is that when Regal is "woken up" the first thing he says is I didn't know you were married. This guy saves this show week in and week out. When I say saves I mean he keeps it on the TV in the 5th circle of torment rather than the 9th.

HOKEY SMOKE IT'S ONE OF THE ROOKIES!!! O'Brian tries to break a board with his head...and he's talking to Horny who hurts his head trying to break a board. Titus and Vlad come up so O'Neil picks up Horny and rams his head through the board. I hate my life. I truly do.

Chavo Guerrero/Darren Young vs. Vladimir Kozlov/Conor O'Brian

I have a very bad feeling that they're going to have O'Brian sneak in the back and win this somehow. He's the least interesting and the worst wrestler out of all these guys which means he's probably the favorite. First match between the rookies starts up over halfway into the show. I guess that's required though. Have to hit the JTG fanbase. Young and Vlad start us off with Kozlov taking him down to the mat almost immediately.

Off to the cure with insomnia with sideburns who gets two on Young. Chavo comes in and hammers away but that's too interesting so let's bring Young back in again. Chavo hits a slingshot hilo ala Eddie for two. Conor hits an elbow and we head to the floor, only for Chavo to beat Conor back in and

hit a slingshot axe handle to take him down again. We take a quick break and come back with Young getting two on Conor.

Vlad finally gets the hot tag and gets double teamed because Conor thinks there's nothing wrong with letting him fight off two guys at once and losing any momentum they had. Some lunkhead fan tries to get a Vlad chant going and it completely fails. The pros come in so it's at least borderline interesting. Off to Young again as they work on the back of Kozlov for awhile.

Neckbreaker takes Kozlov down for two. We hit the chinlock because someone thought giving these guys over ten minutes was a good idea. Front facelock wastes some more time. Double tags bring in both rookies as I think we're finally getting close to the ending here. Flapjack takes Young down for two. Young gets up and hits his fireman's carry into a backbreaker for the pin on O'Brian at 12:10.

Rating: D+. Well they were trying I guess but Young and O'Brian just aren't interesting. That's all there is to it: I have no desire to see them have any match at all. Young was dull in Nexus and he's dull here. O'Brian is supposed to be this guy that has worked his way here but it's just not working. Chavo and Vlad are ok but that's about it, and that's not enough to support a 12 minute match.

Titus O'Neil vs. Lucky Cannon

Maryse is with Cannon as are both pros. Maryse has a big purse with her which apparently cost \$3,500. It's a bag. You put stuff in it. HOW CAN THAT COST THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS??? The stupid thing is there are bags that cost that much so it's not even a wrestling overstatement. Lucky takes over to start and pounds away. Off to a chinlock as we're running out of time here.

Lucky actually covers him after some stomps. When do you ever see that? Back to the chinlock again which eats up some clock. Titus hammers back but gets sent to the floor. It's shenanigan time as Horny proposes to Maryse, giving her a candy bracelet. He tries to take her purse which is ripped in half. Not buying quality I guess. Cannon is distracted and turns into the Clash of the Titus to end this at 5:18.

Rating: D. This was a five minute match and about three of those were spent in rest holds. That being said, I'd rather watch this again with ease over the previous tag match as at least these two are the talented and somewhat interesting rookies. Titus has a look and Cannon is a somewhat interesting heel so I can actually stay interested in one of their matches. Other than that, this was nothing though.

Overall Rating: D. And NXT botches it again. The problem here is the same as it's been the entire time: these guys aren't all that interesting. Also, it's taking FAR too long to get through this. It helps that we're finally getting rapid eliminations but it took us three months to get here. There are three guys on this show that are bearable but O'Brian just isn't there. Sadly, that probably means he'll be pushed to the finals at least. Anyway, another weak show here but we get rid of someone next week so there's that to look forward to.

Results

Yoshi Tatsu b. JTG – Round kick to the head

Darren Young/Chavo Guerrero b. Vladimir Kozlov/Conor O'Brian – Backbreaker to O'Brian

Titus O'Neil b. Lucky Cannon – Clash of the Titus