

Dynamite – June 14, 2023: The Forbidden Sandwich

Dynamite

Date: June 14, 2023

Location: Capitol One Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

We're back at the location of the first ever Dynamite and that means we should be in for a big match. In this case, we are about a week and a half away from Forbidden Door and some more matches need to be announced. The top matches have been confirmed, but that still leaves a good bit of work to do. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Adam Cole

Non-title but if Cole wins, he gets a future title shot. They go toe to toe to start and then lock up with MJF getting in the first knockdown. That means some strutting but MJF has to bail away from the threat of a superkick. Hold on though as MJF goes into the crowd to knock a fan's hat off. Back in and MJF knocks him into the corner but gets sent into the corner to even things out.

Cole's baseball slide is countered as MJF ties him up in the ring skirt. Cole's hand is crushed against the steps and it's time for the armbar back inside. The arm gets twisted down again and a pumphandle driver gives MJF two. MJF does the Shawn Michaels pose and tunes up the band but Cole beats him to the superkick. Cole drops him again but the Panama Sunrise is countered.

The Heatseeker is countered as well and Cole hits a shoulder breaker for two. The fireman's carry backbreaker hits MJF but Cole bangs up his own knee in the process. With both of them down, they roll over to the apron, where MJF hits a Tombstone to put them both down. We take a break and come back with MJF hitting a hard clothesline but getting pulled into the Crossface. MJF reverses into a Fujiwara armbar, which is reversed into an ankle lock.

That's escaped as well and now the Heatseeker gives MJF two. A top rope elbow sends Cole through the timekeeper's table and they're both down. Cole dives back in to beat the count and MJF is looking terrified. A German suplex drops MJF on the apron but MJF falls down before the Panama Sunrise. MJF gets in a quick stomp on the arm but Cole's rollup is kicked into the referee to knock him down.

Back up and MJF grabs the title and falls down...only to have the referee fall down as well. A belt shot and the Boom give Cole two for a shocked near fall look. MJF grabs the referee to kick Cole low, meaning it's time for the diamond ring. The referee catches the big swing though and it's a superkick into the Panama Sunrise into the Boom for...two as the time limit expires at 29:54 (close enough).

Rating: B. That certainly was an Adam Cole match, as it had a bunch of totally ridiculous kickouts and near falls but there was enough good action to go with it. They were kind of telegraphing the time limit by the end but it does set up a rematch at some point down the road. For a free TV match, this was rather good, though cut out the nonsense with the near falls and dropping them on their heads on the apron.

Post match Cole says "five more minutes" but MJF walks out.

Video on CM Punk, who is back at Collision and says he has scores to settle and things to get off his chest.

Here is Sammy Guevara for the first time since Double Or

Nothing. He talks about being excited to be a father and how he's looking forward to holding his daughter in one arm and the World Title in the other. Cue Darby Allin to interrupt and he immediately congratulates him on the daughter. That brings him to the important question though: is Sammy always going to walk in Chris Jericho's shadow?

Allin and Sting are equals, so why aren't Sammy and Jericho? Cue Jericho (in what appear to be sparkly high heels), who wants to know why Sammy didn't ask for help to win the World Title. Sammy says if Jericho had called for help, he wouldn't have lost to Adam Cole twice. Jericho isn't happy but suggests a tag match, so here is Sting to even things up. They compare bats and Jericho backs off.

IWGP World Heavyweight Champion Sanada issues an open challenge for Forbidden Door.

Keith Lee/Sting/Darby Allin/Orange Cassidy vs. Mogul Embassy

Dustin Rhodes is here with Sting and company. Allin and Cassidy's dives are cut off but Allin is fine enough to come back in for running charges to Swerve in the corner. Sting adds his own but Cage (in Sting cosplay) pulls Sting outside. We take a break and come back with Swerve working on Allin's arm.

Cassidy tries to make a save but gets sent outside, leaving Allin to get caught in a chinlock. Allin fights up and brings in Lee to clean house. A huge Tower of Doom plants Lee out of the corner for two as everything breaks down. Sting gets knocked hard into the corner but Lee makes the save. A clothesline drops Cage but he gets Sting up into a fireman's carry. The Orange Punch into the Scorpion Death Drop finishes Cage at 8:46.

Rating: C+. There was a lot going on here but it was nice to have Sting back in the ring for another one off match. AEW has done a good job with making that feel special, though having

him pin cage when the Gates of Agony are right there is a bit of a weird choice. Otherwise, fun enough match, even with the break cutting out a lot of it.

The Gunns want to face the Hardys next week.

TNT Title: Wardlow vs. Jake Hager

Wardlow is defending and gets jumped from behind during their entrances as we start fast. The beating doesn't last long as Wardlow powers up and knocks him outside, with a clothesline dropping Hager as we take a break. Back with Wardlow escaping an ankle lock but here is the Jericho Appreciation Society. Arn teases pulling out his gun but Brock Anderson comes out for the save instead. With the gun tease done, Hager powerslams Wardlow for two but the Vader Bomb hits raised boots. The Swanton connects and the Powerbomb Symphony retains the title at 7:14.

Rating: C. It was another short match with Wardlow getting to wreck someone else before he gets to his next big title defense. The Anderson stuff still doesn't feel like the most logical pairing for Wardlow, but at least he's back to powerbombing people. Not much to this one, but Hager is fine enough for a one off challenger.

Post match Christian Cage and Luchasaurus pop up to challenge Wardlow for Collision. They've attacked Arn Anderson and busted him open, with Wardlow running to the back.

Hiroshi Tanahashi challenges MJF for Forbidden Door.

MJF says he's not down for giving some random guy from a rinky dink promotion in Japan a title shot so nah.

Orange Cassidy is ready for Forbidden Door when Zack Sabre Jr. comes in. A title match is teased when Daniel Garcia comes in to ask about Katsuyori Shibata. Cassidy says Shibata will be here next week, so the tag match is on.

Women's Title: Skye Blue vs. Toni Storm

Storm, with Ruby Soho, is defending. Blue starts fast and hits a high crossbody for an early two. With Storm outside, she and Soho spray paint in the face of Blue's mom, setting up the double suicide dive as we take a break. Back with Blue in trouble but she cuts off the spray paint with a spray can of her own. A superkick drops Storm and Code Blue connects but Soho has the referee. There's a superkick to Soho but Blue charges into Storm Zero for two (in a nice false finish). The Texas Cloverleaf retains the title a few moments later at 6:58.

Rating: C. They packed a lot into this and while it was only so good, Blue didn't feel like a total pushover. The Outcasts don't really have a big story at the moment so having Storm beat someone in a TV title defense is a smart way to go. It's going to take some combination to take the Outcasts down, and Blue being part of it would be an acceptable idea.

Post match the beatdown is on but Willow Nightingale makes the save.

Jungle Boy accepts Sanada's title for the IWGP Title shot at Forbidden Door. He also wants Hook, his best friend, to be in his corner. A fist bump makes it official.

Forbidden Door video.

Forbidden Door rundown.

Bullet Club Gold is ready for CM Punk and FTR.

Collision rundown, including Miro and Andrade El Idolo's returns to the ring.

Hangman Page/Young Bucks vs. Blackpool Combat Club

Bryan Danielson is on commentary. It's a slugout to start (with Matt Jackson hanging in a fist fight with Claudio

Castagnoli) before the Elite takes over with the power of flips and dives. Nick high crossbodies Moxley but Claudio pulls a moonsault out of the air for the pop up uppercut. Back in and Moxley's piledriver gets two and we take a break.

We come back with Nick dropkicking his way out of trouble and bringing Page in to clean house. A suicide dive connects on the floor and a high crossbody gets two on Yuta. Everything breaks down and Yuta's German suplex gets two on Matt. It's back to Moxley for a Doomsday Device and a near fall, followed by the choke to Matt. Nick Swantons in for the save and the Club's Rocket Launcher only hits raised knees. The BTE Trigger hits Yuta and the Buckshot Lariat connects for the pin at 11:53.

Rating: B. At some point the Club had to show some vulnerability and that's what we got here. The Elite taking them down isn't a stretch and it was a former World Champion pinning the weakest member of the Club. Everything went well here and it was a fast paced match, which made for a pretty awesome main event.

Post match the beatdown stays on but Eddie Kingston runs in for the save. Kingston goes after Claudio but pulls the Bucks off of Moxley. Kingston and Moxley go face to face but here is Konosuke Takeshita to jump Kingston and the Elite. Kenny Omega runs to the ring for the brawl with Takeshita and house is cleaned. Omega loads up the dive but Will Ospreay comes in to take Omega down. A pair of Hidden Blades drops Omega to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. This was a pretty great show, with the opener and main event both being very good, but also with the Forbidden Door build being sprinkled throughout. This year's build has blown away last years as it has been one piece at a time rather than a bunch of stuff being thrown out there all at once. There was nothing really close to bad here and even with the middle being just ok, the two hours flew by and it

made for a quality as well as useful show.

Results

Adam Cole vs. Maxwell Jacob Friedman went to a time limit draw
Keith Lee/Sting/Darby Allin/Orange Cassidy b. Mogul Embassy –
Scorpion Death Drop to Cage

Wardlow b. Jake Hager – Powerbomb Symphony

Toni Storm b. Skye Blue – Texas Cloverleaf

Hangman Page/Young Bucks b. Blackpool Combat Club – Buckshot
Lariat to Yuta

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NXT – June 13, 2023: Happy Birthday Jacob

NXT

Date: June 13, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We might be in for something of a main roster invasion this week, as last week's show ended with Bron Breakker challenging World Heavyweight Champion Seth Rollins for a title shot. Other than that, Baron Corbin and Mustafa Ali are still lurking around and that should make for a big show. Let's get to it.

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

Schism vs. Tyler Bate/Wes Lee/Mustafa Ali

It's a brawl before the bell to start until we settle down to Ali being taken into the corner. That doesn't last long and it's Lee coming in to get caught in a double hot shot from the Dyad. Gacy adds the release Rock Bottom and it's Fowler coming

back in for three straight near falls. Lee tries to punch back against Gacy, who drops him with an uppercut.

Reid breaks up a sunset flip but Lee gets over and brings Bate in to clean house. The airplane spin is broken up but Schism is sent to the floor, setting up the triple dives as we take a break. Back with Bate fighting out of trouble and everything breaking down. Ali misses the 450 and gets sent HARD into the corner.

Lee comes back in and dropkicks Fowler in the back, setting up a big running flip dive to take out the other two. The Cardiac Kick misses Fowler and the referee gets bumped. Lee gets shoved into Bate to knock him off the apron, leaving Lee to get caught in a toss sitout powerbomb (that looked good) for...two, as another referee comes in to say Bate made a tag (while the original referee was down). Ali hits a tornado DDT to the floor on Reid, leaving Bate to Tyler Driver 97 Gacy for the pin at 14:18.

Rating: B-. These guys were working here and the action got rather good at times. But now tags the referee just doesn't see can count? That's quite the departure from pretty much forever in WWE history, but it was certainly was a unique ending. Gacy's troubles continue as well and it is hard to imagine the team not having issues going forward.

Thea Hail is ready to show Charlie Dempsey and Drew Gulak what he can do. With them gone, Duke Hudson calls Andre Chase and leaves a voicemail saying things are getting out of hand.

Here is Bron Breaker to talk about how he took out Ilja Dragunov and now he wants Seth Rollins. Cue Dragunov, who has to be held back by security, but Rollins pops up on screen. Rollins is somewhat impressed by Breaker, and thinks it would be nice to go back where it all started. The challenge is accepted (the fans approve) and next week he'll be here to defend against Breaker.

Video on Dana Brooke.

Brooke is ready to be here and work hard but Cora Jade comes into slap her and violence is teased.

Tyler Bate, Wes Lee and Mustafa Ali are happy with their win and it's time for the North American Title match. Ali will even be guest referee! As for tonight, Bate thinks they should go vegan. Lee is in and Ali looks like he wants to end him.

Cora Jade vs. Thea Hail

Duke Hudson is here too as they fight over wrist control to start. Hail's headlock doesn't last long so she messes up a flip in the corner. An armdrag into an armbar works a bit better, at least until Hail elbows her way out of trouble. Here is Dana Brooke to cheer for Hail as Jade grabs a chinlock. Hail fights up and hits a springboard backplash before they head to the floor. Jade hits Brooke and grabs the kendo stick, which is enough of a distraction for Brooke to send her into the steps. Back in and Hail grabs a Kimura for the tap at 4:18.

Rating: C. I could go for more of this insane/aggressive Hail, as it oddly suits her over the top insanity. On top of that, she has a title match coming up so giving her a win is a good idea. Brooke vs. Jade is hardly some marquee match, but it does give both of them something to do for the time being.

We go over the Heritage Cup rules. The match will be six three minute rounds, first to win two falls wins. You can win a fall by pinfall, submission or countout, but a knockout or DQ ends the match instantly. In the event of a tie, the champion retains the title.

Heritage Cup: Noam Dar vs. Nathan Frazer

Dar is...injured, so Oro Mensah will be defending in his place.

Heritage Cup: Oro Mensah vs. Nathan Frazer

Mensah is defending on Dar's behalf. Round One begins with a fight over arm control. Mensah gets the better of an armbar but Frazer reverses into a rollup for the pin at 1:49 of the first fall. Round Two begins with Mensah being more aggressive and chopping Frazer against the ropes. A knockdown gives Mensah two but Frazer pulls himself up from the mat and nails an enziguri. Mensah is back up with a kick to the head of his own so Jakara Jackson gets up on the apron. Lash Legend offers a distraction and the running spinwheel kick in the corner finishes Frazer to tie it up at 1:55 of the round and 4:14 total.

We take a break and come back with about 40 seconds to go in Round Three. They trade rollups for two each until Frazer superkicks a springboard moonsault out of the air. There's a very delayed near fall as the round ends. Round Four begins with Mensah planting Frazer for two and being shocked at the kickout. Frazer superkicks him in the chest for two but he gets flipped off the top. Jackson and Legend try to cheat again, but cue Yulisa Leon and Valentina Feroz to cut them off. Frazer avoids the spinwheel kick in the corner and finishes with a phoenix splash at 2:32 of the round and 11:44 overall to win the Cup.

Rating: C. I wasn't feeling this as you had Frazer beating a replacement champion in a match with all kinds of interference. There was so much here going on and it wasn't exactly working. You can all but guarantee a rematch with Noam Dar down the line, but for now, Frazer gets his big moment and actually wins something for a change.

Video on Lyra Valkyria.

Some women are catty to each other about Valkyria and an alliance between Lola Vice and Elektra Lopez is formed.

Mr. Stone asks Von Wagner about the therapist when Dijak comes in to look annoyed at them. With Dijak gone, Wagner says he

still hasn't talked to the therapist about the picture, sending Stone into a rant about trust. Wagner says he has always trusted Stone, which comes off as a surprise.

Axiom/Scrypts vs. Dabba-Kato

Kato knocks them out of the air to start and drops Axiom mask first onto the mat. Axiom manages to come back with an enziguri and Scrypts slugs away. Kato is knocked to the floor for a series of dives to take him down, followed by a top rope moonsault to drop him again back inside. The Golden Ratio gives Axiom the pin at 3:13.

Rating: C-. I'm not sure what the point of this feud has been but it isn't exactly working. Kato isn't exactly great, but why is he getting this much time if he is going to lose so often? I still think there is something to Axiom, though at the end of the day, it isn't going to matter if he is stuck in feuds like this.

Post match Humberto Carrillo and Angel Garza of all people come in to beat down Scrypts and Axiom. Garza gets a heck of a reaction.

Stacks looks at a web of people in NXT who might have led to Tony D'Angelo getting arrested. He'll figure this out.

Duke Hudson is proud of Thea Hail, who is a little sore from her match. She's ready to become the youngest Women's Champion in NXT history. Next week, it's a pep rally to get her ready. Tiffany Stratton comes in to mock everything about Hail, as is her custom. With Stratton gone, Charlie Dempsey and Drew Gulak come in to tell Hail to get back in the gym. She's ready and threatens to hurt Dempsey.

Edris Enofe vs. Malik Blade

Tank Ledger, Hank Walker, Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen all come out to watch as it's an exchange of rollups to start.

Blade hits a dropkick but can't get a powerbomb to the floor. Instead Enofe hits a running clothesline but misses a big dive (with a nasty landing). Blade hits his own huge dive, only to get caught in a superplex back inside. That's fine with Blade, as they pop up from their legs and interlock their legs so Blade can get a small package for the pin at 2:48. These guys are scary athletic and I've always wanted to see more from them.

Post match all three teams get in, but Booker T. announces that next week it's a triple threat match with the winners getting a Tag Team Title shot the week after. The fight is on and Humberto Carrillo and Angel Garza pop up on the platform to say there is a lot of competition around here.

Damon Kemp yells about the referee not seeing his foot on the ropes last week. Eddy Thorpe comes in and doesn't like being told it was a cheap victory. They can run it back again and Kemp can pick the stipulations.

Blair Davenport shows us where she has attacked various women in the parking lot, complete with a map. Tatum Paxley is on her side and now it's time to take out Roxanne Perez.

Roxanne Perez vs. Tatum Paxley

Perez starts fast by snapping off an ankle scissors but Paxley sends her throat first into the bottom rope. A hanging butterfly suplex gives Paxley two and a faceplant gets the same. Paxley's Boston crab is reversed into a small package for two and Perez hammers away. A Russian legsweep is blocked but Pop Rox (with Perez landing on her head on the way down) finishes Paxley at 3:23.

Rating: C. They kept this short and to the point, as we seem to be getting ready for a Perez vs. Davenport showdown. Perez beating Paxley is a first step on the way there, as it isn't like Paxley is anything more than a Davenport lackey. This was just another step forward with the feud and the big match can

come later.

Post match Perez (who thankfully seems fine) says she isn't afraid of Blair Davenport.

Gigi Dolin rants about being eliminated from the battle royal when Fallon Henley comes in to rant as well. They're both sick of Kiana James and are ready to deal with her.

Video on Lucien Price and Bronco Nima, a pair of childhood friends who are ready to be a dominant team. They've been on LVL Up for months so this had to happen.

Baron Corbin vs. Ilja Dragunov

For the NXT Title shot in two weeks and Dragunov is coming in with bad ribs. Dragunov sends him into the buckle a few times to start but Dragunov chops away to drop Corbin for a change. Back up and Corbin hits a hard right hand to take over, only to get pulled into some rolling German suplexes. The Constantine Special sends Corbin outside and we take a break.

Back with Corbin dumping him to the floor and working away on the bad ribs. A backbreaker gives Corbin two back inside and Dragunov gets sent hard into the corner. Corbin Death Valley Drivers him for two but Dragunov starts slugging away. Deep Six cuts Dragunov off for two more but he's right back with a running knee in the corner. The top rope backsplash crushes Corbin and a DDT plants him again. Cue Bron Breaker for a distraction though and End of Days gives Corbin the pin at 13:32.

Rating: B. This is a situation where you might have been able to guess the ending from the start but it was the right way to go. Corbin and Hayes have a history together and it would be strange to see Dragunov jump the line to get a title shot that fast. What matters here is setting up two big matches at once and that is what NXT pulled off right here. As for the match itself, it was a pretty brutal fight, with Dragunov making you

believe that he is in agony with every shot he takes to those ribs. Dragunov feels special, but for now it is time for Corbin to get his title shot.

Breakker and Dragunov fight off to the back and Carmelo Hayes comes in to take out Corbin to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The big stuff worked but there was a stretch in the middle of this show that really illustrated how uninteresting a lot of the midcard is around here. It's just people doing things that aren't overly important and it doesn't feel like something I needed to see. I do like the bringing main roster stars in, with Garza and Carrillo being great choices. There are good things about NXT, and if they can boost up the weaker parts, they have a heck of a show.

Results

Tyler Bate/Wes Lee/Mustafa Ali b. Schism – Tyler Driver 97 to Gacy

Thea Hail b. Cora Jade – Kimura

Nathan Frazer b. Oro Mensah – 2-1

Axiom/Scrypts b. Dabba-Kato – Golden Ratio

Malik Blade b. Edris Enofe – Small package

Roxanne Perez b. Tatum Paxley – Pop Rox

Baron Corbin b. Ilja Dragunov – End of Days

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Monday Night Raw – June 12, 2023: Something Good About This Week's Show

Monday Night Raw

Date: June 12, 2023

Location: Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas

Commentators: Kevin Patrick, Corey Graves

We're less than three weeks away from Money in the Bank and tonight we have another qualifying match. We also have Kevin Owens/Sami Zayn getting to deal with Imperium, but the bigger story might be Finn Balor coming after Seth Rollins and the World Heavyweight Championship. Let's get to it.

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

Here is Rhea Ripley, who is quickly presented with the Women's World Title (which looks like the World Heavyweight Title but with a white strap). The fans cheer, but here is Dominik Mysterio to put the title around her waist. He calls the

booing disrespectful but here is Cody Rhodes to interrupt.

Cody could talk about his match with the Miz, but we look at Dominik calling him a deadbeat dad last week. Dominik slapped him last week but Cody was hoping that Brock Lesnar was coming out here this week. Instead, how about he faces Dominik at Money In The Bank? Rhea accepts for him but cue Miz to jump Cody from behind. Cody drops him but gets jumped by Dominik.

Cody Rhodes vs. The Miz

Miz flips out of an early belly to back suplex but it's way too early for the Skull Crushing Finale. Instead Cody sends him outside for a Disaster Kick off the apron. The suicide dive connects and Cody grabs an armbar back inside. Cody misses a charge into the post though and Miz sends him into the post as we take a break.

Back with Cody fighting back and hitting a powerslam as Cody vs. Dominik is officially confirmed for Money in the Bank. Another Disaster Kick gives Cody two but Miz kicks him in the arm and gets two off a DDT. The Cody Cutter connects though and Cross Rhodes finishes for Cody at 10:38.

Rating: C+. Cody gets another win as he keeps getting ready for his third showdown with Brock Lesnar, even if that might not take place for a good while. As usual, Miz can be there to take a loss to anyone and look good in defeat. The arm work was a fine enough story here and they had a perfectly watchable match.

Becky Lynch passes the Alpha Academy and Maxxine Dupri working out on her way to the ring.

Here is Lynch in the ring for a chat. She talks about how we have been conditioned to think that the champion is the most important person. Instead, it should be the person with the most power, and who has more power than the person holding that briefcase? That should make the champ scared, but it

should make Trish Stratus scared too.

Cue Zoey Stark to interrupt, saying Lynch can't beat Trish. Lynch says learning from her failures is what made her great, but we haven't learned much about Stark. She knows Stark is good, but she has no personality. Stark is ready to take Lynch out at Money in the Bank. Lynch says we can do this right now but cue Chelsea Green and Sonya Deville to say they'll handle this. Zoey did well in her first major promo on the main roster and held her own against a star like Lynch. We'll also ignore Lynch saying that having a title shot is more important than having the title itself.

Chelsea Green vs. Becky Lynch

Sonya Deville is here with Green, who gets shouldered down to start. We take a break and come back with Lynch fighting out of a chinlock but getting sent face first into the corner. Lynch isn't having that and counters I'm Prettier. A rollup is countered as well and it's the Disarm-Her for the tap at 6:28.

Rating: C. Not much to this one as it's hard to imagine that Lynch is going to be in any kind of danger against Green. Despite coming back to some fanfare, Green hasn't done much of note so far. That being said, she can still be out there driving people crazy and lose over and over without missing a beat. That's a good person to have around and Green plays the role well.

We recap last week's main event, with Seth Rollins retaining the World Title over Damian Priest.

The Judgment Day is in the back and Finn Balor says he has a lot on his mind. Priest does too, like qualifying for the Money in the Bank ladder match. Alone.

Money in the Bank Qualifying Match: Matt Riddle vs. Damian Priest

Riddle goes straight to a Kimura before having to switch to a sleeper. Priest is sent outside where the kick from the apron is cut off, allowing Priest to send him face first into the apron. A huge dive misses for Priest, who goes flying over the announcers' table. Back inside and Priest hits a lifting Downward Spiral, followed by the knee between Riddle's shoulders.

Back up and Riddle kicks him in the head, setting up a backsplash to send Priest outside. The springboard Floating Bro takes Priest down and Riddle grabs a bridging German suplex for two back inside. Priest is right back with the Broken Arrow and they're both down as we take a break.

Back with Riddle pulling him into an ankle lock before switching into another sleeper. Priest drops backwards for the escape and blasts him with a clothesline. Riddle's springboard is broken up and a hanging headlock driver gives Priest two more. Priest catches him up top but is reversed into a fisherman's superplex for two. Back up and Priest catches him on the ropes and hits a Razor's Edge for the pin at 14:20.

Rating: B. This was a hard hitting back and forth fight with Priest winning in the end, which was a bit of a surprise. That being said, Riddle hasn't exactly had the best success since his return but at least he is doing well in the ring. The fans are reacting to him as well, which means he is probably going to be pretty high up on the card for the time being. If he can have matches like this on a regular basis, I can go for that.

Post match Gunther and Ludvig Kaiser come out to stare down Priest. After a quick look at Priest, Gunther and Kaiser go inside and beat down Riddle.

Cody Rhodes is ready to face Dominik Mysterio at Money in the Bank because it's a step on the path to finishing the story, just like beating Brock Lesnar again.

Natalya says maybe changing is a good thing because she

doesn't know how to be herself anymore.

Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn are ready to face Imperium, who interrupt them. Owens is ready to get annoyed, to the point where he agrees to make their previously scheduled match for the titles. Gunther chuckles but Sami holds up the titles. Adam Pearce isn't sure if the match will be for the titles.

We recap the Bloodline issues from Smackdown.

Indus Shera and Jinder Mahal want to hurt Shelton Benjamin and Cedric Alexander again.

Ricochet vs. Bronson Reed

Reed knocks him into the corner to start and here is Shinsuke Nakamura. Ricochet fights back but a tornado DDT is countered into a drop over the top rope. A hard crash off of said ropes leaves Ricochet in trouble as we take a break. Back with Ricochet slipping out of a powerbomb and hitting a jumping kick to the shoulder. Reed gets kicked to the floor for a suicide dive, followed by the springboard crossbody back inside. A Lionsault gives Ricochet two but another moonsault is pulled out of the air, with Reed throwing him at Nakamura. Back in and Nakamura jumps Reed for the DQ at 7:35.

Rating: B-. That is the kind of storyline ending that keeps things going and you might even be able to pencil in a triple threat match after Nakamura faces Reed next week. As for the match itself, it was a rather decent power vs. speed match, as Ricochet is on a nice little roll as of late. Reed is a good monster too, and seeing him run people over is a nice thing to see on a regular basis.

Post match Ricochet is mad at Nakamura for costing him a match, which is a rather fair criticism. Reed runs them over and goes up, only to be pulled back down in a double superplex.

Kevin Owens goes off on Sami Zayn about all of the stress they have been having recently. But don't worry, because he's good for out there.

Adam Pearce makes the main event a Tag Team Title match when Ricochet comes in. He wants Bronson Reed next week, but Reed already has Shinsuke Nakamura, who pops in, next week instead. Ricochet asks Nakamura what was up out there and threatens violence if it happens again. Nakamura doesn't seem threatened.

Here is Finn Balor for a chat. He wants Seth Rollins out here, minus the singalong and jokes, so here is Rollins, complete with singalong. Balor tells everyone to shut up and mentions what he was doing in 2016 before Rollins hurt him. Rollins asks the fans if they're having fun tonight and they cut Balor off again.

Balor goes over the injuries Rollins gave him in 2016 and now it's time Balor takes it all back at Money in the Bank. That makes Rollins laugh because he's glad to see the Balor he has been wanting for seven years. Rollins has changed over the years and is the best version of himself. So which Balor is coming to London? The one who beat him in 2016 has a shot, but this guy is a joke. Balor looks serious to wrap it up. Balor as the challenger of the month at a show filled with ladder matches works just fine, especially with their history.

Raquel Rodriguez vs. Shayna Baszler

Ronda Rousey is here too. Baszler grabs a fall away slam to start and powers Baszler into the corner. That's broken up and Baszler pulls her down, only to have Rousey offer a distraction. Baszler grabs a rollup with an assist from Rousey for the pin at 2:13.

Iron Sheik tribute video.

Erik vs. Chad Gable

Their respective partner/manager are here too. Erik takes him down to start but we pause for Maxxine to armdrag Valhalla on the floor. Maxxine celebrates like nuts and the distraction lets Gable get a sunset flip for the pin at 1:48.

Video on Rhea Ripley.

Finn Balor is talking to JD McDonagh when Damian Priest comes in. They're both happy with each other's success but Priest wouldn't cash in on Balor. Priest says make it work and end this at Money in the Bank.

Seth Rollins is ready for Balor at Money in the Bank and seems to think Priest isn't happy. He's so happy that we can just do another open challenge for a title match next week.

Tag Team Titles: Gunther/Ludvig Kaiser vs. Sami Zayn/Kevin Owens

Gunther and Kaiser are challenging and Gunther powers Sami into the corner to start. Sami manages to knock him outside though and there's the big running flip dive to take Gunther down. We take a break and come back with Zayn taking Kaiser down into a quickly broken armbar. Sami knocks him down again but it's off to Gunther off a blind tag. The big boot gives Gunther two and it's Sami in trouble in the corner. Zayn is draped over the top and kicked down to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Owens getting the tag to clean house, including a t-bone suplex to Gunther. A superkick sets up the Cannonball to Gunther and the Swanton gets two. The Stunner is cut off though and Gunther boots Owens down. The double tag brings in Sami to suplex Kaiser into the corner but Gunther pulls Sami outside.

Gunther's chop only hits the post though, leaving Kaiser to Death Valley Driver Zayn. Back in and Gunther hits a rather hard lariat for two and the Imperium Bomb gets the same, with

Owens having to make the save. Cue Matt Riddle, with the distraction letting Owens take Gunther down on the floor. The Blue Thunder Bomb retains the titles at 18:43.

Rating: B. This was a longer match and it made the titles feel that much more important. Gunther has that aura to him that makes whatever he does seem important and Kaiser is a rather suitable partner. The ending also keeps Riddle vs. Imperium going and actually made the Blue Thunder Bomb feel like a finisher, which has been the case maybe twice ever for Zayn. Good main event here, as Owens and Zayn get another nice title defense.

Overall Rating: B. This was kind of a strange show as it set up some things for Money in the Bank but it didn't exactly feel important. Maybe that's because neither match exactly comes off as big, but the ladder matches are going to carry the show anyway. Other than that, you had solid action here though and a lot of stuff did happen. It might not have been great, but it was efficient, and that's not a bad night.

Results

Cody Rhodes b. The Miz – Cross Rhodes

Becky Lynch b. Chelsea Green – Disarm-Her

Damian Priest b. Matt Riddle – Razor's Edge

Bronson Reed b. Ricochet via DQ when Shinsuke Nakamura interfered

Shayna Baszler b. Raquel Rodriguez – Rollup with assist from Ronda Rousey

Chad Gable b. Erik – Sunset flip

Kevin Owens/Sami Zayn b. Gunther/Ludvig Kaiser – Blue Thunder Bomb to Kaiser

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NXT LVL Up – June 9, 2023: They'll Do

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 9, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

Things were a bit different last week as we had some different faces around for a change. That can make all the difference in the world with a show like this, which is built around getting people some ring time before they're called up to the main NXT show (in theory at least). Hopefully they keep that up here so let's get to it.

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

In Memory of the Iron Sheik.

Opening sequence.

Nathan Frazier vs. Tavion Heights

Heights wrestles/powers him to the mat to start but Frazier

reverses into a sunset flip for two. Back up and Frazier starts flipping away, only to dive into an overhead belly to belly suplex (and a sweet one at that). Heights grabs the chinlock but Frazier reverses, only to get kicked throat first into the rope. A Dominator gives Heights two more but Frazier kicks him in the head. Frazier flips out of a German suplex, nails a superkick and finishes with the Phoenix splash at 4:40.

Rating: C+. Frazier being around instantly made the show feel more important and the fact that it was a rather nice power vs. speed match helped. This felt like Heights was told to go do all of his impressive stuff and the power/amateur mixture worked. Heights is another star who feels like he could be a big deal going forward, but he has to actually win something for that to take place.

Luca Crusifino is ready for Myles Borne, who lacks his intelligence.

Luca Crusifino vs. Myles Borne

Borne works on a wristlock to start before switching over to an armbar. Luca can't shake him off but can send Borne throat first into the rope to escape. Some knees to the back set up a chokeslam as the fans argue over whether Luca is their lawyer or not. Borne finally suplexes his way out of trouble but can't get a powerslam. Instead Borne tries la majistral but Luca stacks him up for the pin at 5:38.

Rating: C. Crusifino winning matches is almost strange to see but it's nice to have someone fresh actually getting some wins. The evil lawyer isn't likely to be the biggest gimmick, but I'll take it over having absolutely nothing else to do. Now just let him get better and find something for him to do and he should be fine.

Charlie Dempsey vs. Dante Chen

Drew Gulak is here with Dempsey. They fight over arm control to start, with Chen flipping him over for an annoyed stare from Dempsey. Another battle over the arm goes to Dempsey, who suplexes him down a few times for some near falls. Back up and Chen elbows him in the face, setting up the armdrag into the armbar.

Chen whips him into the corner a few times but Dempsey gets it back to the mat. The cravate holds Chen in trouble for a bit until he wins a forearm exchange. A big boot drops Dempsey again but he bails to the floor before the double chop. Chen misses a springboard though and gets pulled into a reverse STF (Dempsey has the legs tied up but is laying on his back to pull on the chin.) for the tap at 7:50.

Rating: B-. This was one of the better matches I've seen on this show in a good while, as Dempsey was working well with the torture and Chen kept up the energy. Chen is a mainstay around here and isn't interesting enough for the main NXT show, but he can do well when given the chance. Dempsey could be a force in NXT if he ever gets to move up a bit, but I can settle for him tormenting innocent victims for the time being.

Overall Rating: C+. They went in the opposite direction this week with more star power and that was a nice change of pace. LVL Up is not usually the place for people like Frazier and Dempsey but it was cool to have them around here for a change instead of the same people over and over. I get why NXT wouldn't want that to be the case every week, but for a one off, this was a fun night.

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NXT LVL Up – June 2, 2023: Coming Attractions

NXT LVL Up

Date: June 2, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Blake Howard

I have no idea what to expect from this show and I'm not sure if that is a good thing or not. LVL Up is a show that can offer something and it is cool to see some of these young up and comers getting a chance. The problem is it can take time for that to really make an impact. Maybe that is different this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Quincy Elliott vs. Kale Dixon

Elliott grinds away on a headlock and adds a kind of Old School wristdrag. Something more similar to a regular Old School connects but Dixon knocks him down and hits a running knee to the face. A few running shots to the face stagger Elliott again and we hit the nerve hold. Back up and Elliott

hits a foot to the face, only to miss a charge into the corner. A rollup with feet on the ropes gives Dixon the pin at 4:53.

Rating: C-. What does it say about your career when you lose to a guy named Kale? Elliott is rather flashy and I can see the appeal, but I'm not sure what kind of ceiling he really has. It wasn't exactly a huge return for Elliott, but then again he has never been pushed as any kind of a major star so I can't imagine this going very far.

Post match Dixon gyrates and gets punched down for his efforts.

Bronco Nima and Lucien Price are ready for Tank Ledger and Hank Walker. That's the most LVL Up main event I can imagine.

Kelani Jordan vs. Kiana James

Jordan's early armdrag annoys James, who grabs an armbar to blow off some steam. That's reversed into Jordan's armbar, which doesn't sit well with James. A running forearm drops Jordan but she's right back with another armdrag. Back up and James sends Jordan's arm into the buckle to take over and the armbar goes on again. Jordan fights up and hits a dropkick but James has had it and grabs the 401K for the pin at 4:35.

Rating: C. Well they have the armbar stuff down pretty well. There wasn't much to see with this one, as Jordan is brand new and James is only so good with her limited experience. James winning isn't a surprise, but Jordan is another young star with all kinds of athleticism which could come in handy down the road.

Tank Ledger/Hank Walker vs. Bronco Nima/Lucien Price

Nima and Ledger lock up to start, with Nima shoving him away. It's quickly off to Walker for a double shoulder and a solo headlock. Price comes in and gets shouldered down, only to

have Price run Ledger over with a clothesline. A jumping knee keeps Ledger in trouble and Nima is back in for the chinlock. That's broken up and it's back to Walker to clean house as everything breaks down. Price superkicks Walker and a gordbuster into a kick to the face gives Price two. A double clothesline gives Walker a breather though and the hot tag brings in Ledger. Nima gets caught in a double belly to back suplex of all things for the pin at 6:24.

Rating: C+. It was a nice power fight and that's all it needed to be, as Walker and Ledger are the much more established team. Let them go in there and get a win over a rather imposing pairing for the show's main event. Nima and Price are about the same as they have been or a long time now, which isn't exactly saying much for the developmental side of things.

Overall Rating: C. It was nice to have some different names than we have been seeing in recent weeks around here and that made for an easier watch this time around. The show is turning into more of a coming attractions version of NXT and that makes for an interesting episode from time to time. This was an acceptable edition, but as usual, there isn't anything worth seeing.

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Smackdown – May 16, 2008: She's In Trouble

Smackdown

Date: May 16, 2008

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Commentators: Mick Foley, Michael Cole

It's the go home show for Judgment Day and, for the third pay per view in a row, the Smackdown main event is going to be Edge vs. Undertaker for the World Title. That doesn't make for the most exciting result, but that is about all they can do in their current situation. I'm not sure how interesting the final push is going to be but let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week's Championship Chase, with Vickie Guerrero adding Edge in at the last minute to steal the title shot.

Opening sequence.

Here is La Familia to get things going. Edge brags about earning the title shot last week and can't wait to beat Undertaker, who can't win without the illegal choke. Cue Teddy Long, who is sorry he's late. Vickie Guerrero can't believe he's here and says that as her assistant, he needs to be the first one to arrive and the last one to leave (Uh, how can he help her then?).

Actually Teddy says he was meeting with the Board Of Directors today, because Vickie blew off her meeting with them. He has a letter from the board for her: she can either have her first

ever match or be fired from her job, with Long suggesting he would take her place. Vickie threatens to fire him but he quits and leaves instead. Oh and one more thing: her opponent is the UNDERTAKER. They had to do something like this at some point, though Vickie getting in the ring sounds more like comedy than anything else.

CM Punk vs. Chuck Palumbo

Palumbo pounds him down into the corner to start before grabbing a headlock takeover. Punk fights up and low bridges him to the floor, setting up the almost required suicide dive. Palumbo gets in another shot though and we hit the chinlock back inside. The elbow misses Punk and he fires off some kicks to put Palumbo in trouble.

There's the running knee in the corner into the bulldog for two, followed by a springboard clothesline for the same. One heck of a standing clothesline gives Palumbo two and there's a fall away slam for another near fall. Full Throttle is broken up though and Punk sends him into the post. The GTS finishes Palumbo off.

Rating: C. That should end this mini feud, as well as Punk's kind of weird losing streak over his last few matches. I know Punk has the briefcase but that doesn't mean he needs to lose so often. I'm still not sure why Palumbo got to beat him in the first place but at least they seem to have gotten back on track.

MVP comes in to see La Familia and complains about last week's Championship Chase. Finlay and then Big Show follow him in but Vickie Guerrero doesn't like the complaining. MVP can find a partner and face Finlay and Show. With the three of them gone, Chavo Guerrero wants to know why he wasn't in on last week's plan. Vickie tells him to shut up because they have planning to do.

Michelle McCool vs. Layla

Layla kicks her way out of the corner to start and slugs away, only to have Michelle come back with a leg crank. Commentary talks about how much better Michelle would have been as their science teacher as she gets a heel hook for the rather fast tap.

Here is Batista for a chat. He was watching Raw this week and saw Shawn Michaels admit that he was faking his knee injury at Backlash. Batista is glad Shawn is better...but wait, it was never hurt in the first place. Shawn is going to be at Judgment day, and maybe Batista will be there too. As usual, Batista keeps it simple and to the point, which often goes best for him.

Video on John Cena vs. John Bradshaw Layfield.

Big Show/Finlay vs. MVP/Mark Henry

Henry is the surprise partner and Hornswoggle is here too, as Show is suddenly a nice guy again. MVP and Finlay go to the mat to start with Finlay grabbing a snap suplex for one. Finlay chokes away a bit before handing it off to Show and Henry. Show knocks him down with a shoulder so MVP comes in to be powered straight into the corner. It's back to Finlay, who has to deal with an invading Henry, allowing MVP to kick him to the floor.

Back in and MVP fires off some forearms to the head. Henry adds a few shots of his own before handing it back to MVP. This time Finlay avoids a charge and brings Show back in as everything breaks down. Finlay low bridges Henry to the floor, leaving MVP to get chokeslammed for the pin.

Rating: C. Not too bad here, with MVP vs. Finlay being a nice feud and Show vs. Henry being there for the monster showdown appeal. I do appreciate it when they throw something new out there, as MVP and Finlay makes for a fresh match. You never know when you might find something that works and I could go for the two of them having a longer match.

Vickie Guerrero does not like being treated like this, so she's making it La Familia vs. Undertaker tonight.

Vladimir Kozlov vs. Funaki

The fans chant USA as Kozlov takes him down by the arm and cranks away. More cranking ensues as Funaki is on his feet, where some kicks to the ribs don't do much. Kozlov knocks him down again and hits the reverse DDT for the win. More dominance, but at least it was against a bigger name.

Cherry vs. Maryse

Deuce N Domino are here with Maryse, who shoves Cherry in the face to start. A neckbreaker gives Cherry a quick two and a rollup is good for the same. Maryse grabs a cravate but Cherry forearms her in the face. A bulldog gives Cherry the upset (I think?) pin.

Video on HHH vs. Randy Orton.

Judgment Day rundown.

Kofi Kingston (with Eve Torres for some reason) shows respect to Matt Hardy when Shelton Benjamin comes in. Benjamin isn't impressed but Matt brings up that the Gold Standard doesn't have any gold. And no the bad hair doesn't count.

Matt Hardy vs. Shelton Benjamin

Non-title. A running shoulder gives Shelton two and he grabs the quickly broken armbar. As Foley talks about Pennsylvania amusement parks, Benjamin takes him into the corner and backdrops him out. Benjamin gets two off a backbreaker and we hit the seated abdominal stretch. Matt fights up but a double leg and headbutt to the ribs cuts him back down. The bodyscissors goes on but Matt fights up for a Side Effect. Benjamin's Dragon Whip connects but Matt is right back with a Twist of Fate for the pin.

Rating: C. Another perfectly watchable match here that had a bit of time. Matt continues to rack up victories, which make him feel like that much stronger of a champion. At the same time, that whole Gold Standard idea continues to feel like one of the worst possible moves, as Shelton's downward spiral continues.

We recap the opening segment.

Undertaker vs. La Familia

Actually hold on as Chavo Guerrero and Bam Neely walk out (apparently over not being in on last week's scheme). Vickie is so terrified that even Mick Foley thinks this might be going too far. Edge and the Edgeheads swarm Undertaker at once but Undertaker fires the heads into the corner. The two of them come back to save Edge, who is playing defense in front of Vickie. The triple teaming puts Undertaker down, where his attempt at the choke is broken up. Undertaker fights up and sends the three of them to the floor before grabbing Vickie by the throat. Edge makes the save with the spear and the villains take the countout.

Rating: C-. This was more of an angle than a match and not exactly a great one at that. They're teasing the idea of Undertaker getting his revenge on Vickie but we're probably a good ways off from that actually happening. For now, we'll have to settle for Edge doing more hitting and running, as the (third) big showdown awaits on Sunday.

Overall Rating: C-. Much like this week's Raw, most of the build towards Sunday was already done but in this case, there wasn't much to see here. We're getting a rematch in the main event plus Batista likely interfering in the Shawn Michaels vs. Chris Jericho match. That isn't much to go on, and it didn't make for a good go home Smackdown on the way there.

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ECW On Sci Fi – May 13, 2008: Here We Go Again?

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: May 13, 2008

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Commentators: Mike Adamle, Tazz

Last week's show was the 100th episode so we'll start on the second century. It's the final show before Judgment Day and the ECW Champion isn't defending his title at the show. Instead, Kane and CM Punk are teaming up to challenge Miz and John Morrison for the Smackdown Tag Team Titles. That isn't going to leave much in the way of a build here but maybe they can come up with something else. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Colin Delaney beating Armando Estrada

in a huge upset to earn a contract last week.

In the back, Estrada warns Delaney that he hasn't been in any real pain yet. Delaney signs and is told he gets to face Mike Knox tonight.

Opening sequence.

Miz vs. CM Punk

Miz has John Morrison stay in the back for this one. Punk wrestles him down to start but Miz blocks the running knee in the corner. Some elbows to the chest set up a crossface chickenwing, but Punk is right back up. A slingshot necksnap over the middle rope gives Miz two as they're certainly starting fast here. Miz grabs the chinlock, followed by a reverse chinlock to change things up a bit. Punk fights up and snaps off a powerslam, followed by a leg lariat. The GTS is broken up and Miz grabs a neckbreaker...for the clean pin.

Rating: C+. It was a fast paced match and that made for an entertaining opener, but were they mad at Punk or something? Miz getting a win over Punk is one thing but a completely clean one is almost hard to fathom. It's probably the biggest singles win of Miz's career, but that's just a weird loss, at least in this fashion, for Punk.

Cherry/Kelly Kelly/Michelle McCool vs. Layla/Victoria/Natalya

Natalya drives Michelle into the corner to start before handing it off to Victoria to start in on the arm. An armdrag gets Michelle out of trouble and it's Cherry coming in to kick away. Natalya grabs a chinlock but Cherry channels Michelle with an armdrag of her own. This one doesn't actually work though and it's Victoria coming back in with a slingshot flipping legdrop. Victoria spends a bit too much time swinging at the other two though and a rollup gives Cherry the pin.

Rating: C-. Not much to this one but you can see that the

division has come a very, very long way. Victoria is good as the veteran who is helping the new generation along and McCool has turned into a rather acceptable hand. Natalya is coming along and Kelly...yeah they're going to push her as a star because of how she looks, ability or not.

Shelton Benjamin wants to get back on track after back to back losses to Kofi Kingston. Cue Kofi, who wins a quick brawl.

Video on Randy Orton vs. HHH.

Video on Colin Delaney's path to the ECW roster.

Colin Delaney vs. Mike Knox

Delaney has some snazzy, upbeat music. Knox runs him over, hits a splash in the corner, and finishes with the swinging Downward Spiral in about a minute.

Post match Armando Estrada comes out to say he wants a rematch, because he is officially part of the roster (with a very lucrative salary).

Armando Estrada vs. Colin Delaney

Shouting and a Curtain Call finish Delaney in about thirty seconds.

Kane vs. John Morrison

Non-title and Miz is here with Morrison. Kane gets taken into the corner for some shots to the knee, which is wrapped around the rope. That's broken up and Kane chokes him over the shoulder. Morrison slips out and kicks away, only to get stomped down again. Kane's missed charge lets Morrison slug away in the corner, with Miz grabbing the foot for a bonus.

That's enough to draw out CM Punk to even things up as we take a break. Back with Kane grabbing a chinlock, with Morrison going to the leg to get out. Some right hands in the corner

and a chop block take Kane down as Morrison is showing the same intensity he was displaying last week. Morrison's leglock sets up a basement dropkick for two before he wraps the leg around the post.

Kane punches his way out of trouble but Morrison takes him right back down by the leg. Another comeback works a bit better as Kane fires off the uppercuts and grabs the side slam. The leg is ok enough for the top rope clothesline but Miz offers a distraction. Punk is sent into the steps (bad night for him), allowing Morrison to get in a title shot. The Flying Chuck finishes Kane off.

Rating: C+. When did Morrison start getting all aggressive and such? It makes for a rather different person and I'm kind of digging what he's been doing lately. Much like the opener, it's a bit weird to see this result, but at least Morrison had to cheat to get there. This was a long match and had a purpose for Sunday so we'll call that a nice way to go to wrap up the show.

Post match Kane is ticked off but gets beaten down again to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. The opener and main event carried most of the show, though having Delaney back to being a punching bag isn't the most thrilling way to go. The women's match wasn't great and that's more or less the show. Having two big matches around here is better than nothing though and I'll take that for a show with only so much to build towards on Sunday.

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Rampage – June 9, 2023: Enjoy It While It Lasts

Rampage

Date: June 9, 2023

Location: Broadmoor World Arena, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Commentators: Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone, Excalibur

We're back to normal this week after last week's rather interesting turn towards a bunch of other stuff. Forbidden Door has started to take shape and there is a good chance that we'll hear more about it this week. In addition, we have a four way for a shot next week at the AEW Women's Title. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Lucha Bros/Bandido vs. Big Bill/Ethan Page/Lee Moriarty

Fenix hurricanranas Page to start but Page is right back with one of his own. With that standoff, Bandido and Moriarty, the latter dancing, come in for a change. Bandido picks up the pace and snaps off a top rope corkscrew crossbody, followed by

a hurricanrana of his own. Penta and Bill come in to complete the trilogy of showdowns. Bill isn't impressed by CERO MIEDO so he pulls Penta out of the air.

Everything breaks down and Penta clears the ring but Bill breaks up the dive. The fight continues on the floor with Moriarty taking over on Bandido, followed by Bill choking Penta inside. We take a break and come back with Penta striking away, allowing the hot tag off to Bandido. That doesn't exactly last long as Bill kicks him in the face and Page adds a powerslam for two. Bandido enziguris his way out of trouble and brings Fenix in to really clean house.

A superkick drops Fenix and the Bros kick Bill down. Bandido hits the big dive to the floor and the Bros kick away a lot more. Moriarty is back in with a discus forearm to Bandido but Fenix drops him with a rolling cutter. The spike Fear Factor plants Moriarty on the apron but Bandido's moonsault hits raised boots. The Ego's Edge is loaded up, only to have the Hardys come out to say they're disappointed in him. He's told to extend his Hardy sleeves, but the distraction lets Bandido hit the 21 Plex for the pin at 10:28.

Rating: B-. This is the kind of opening match that has worked forever and it did so again here. The fans are going to react to the flying and the flipping not matter what and you had three very good ones here. The former Firm are good enough for low level goons and if they stay around that area, everything should be fine.

QTV wants to be edgier on the way to Collision. Solo: "What if we buy the fans ice cream?" Or they could make an announcement that they have an announcement. Instead, they decide to give us a Collision preview.

Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Caleb Crush

Hobbs drops him ribs first onto the top rope to start and tosses him around a bit. The spinebuster finishes Crush at

1:09.

Arn Anderson says his son Brock will be ok but Christian Cage and Luchasaurus made a mistake. Wardlow agrees, but he's ready for his match with Jake Hager on Dynamite.

Spanish Announce Project vs. Acclaimed/Billy Gunn

Caster's rap is about the Denver Nuggets, Pride Month and Lauren Boebert (he's not a fan of one of the three). Angelico tries to scissor with Bowens but misses three times in a row. A knee works a bit better but Bowens is right back up with a dropkick to send him into the corner. Serpenticos comes in and is sent outside, with Luther quickly joining him.

Scissor Me Timbers his Angelico but Serpenticos breaks up scissoring. Luther does as well and we take a break. In THIS match? Back with Gunn coming in to clean house but Angelico enziguris him down so Luther can get two. The Acclaimed come in for a kind of torture rack faceplant/enziguri combination to Luther. The Arrival and Mic Drop finish him off at 8:25.

Rating: C. Bit longer than it needed to be for Gunn and the Acclaimed to beat these goofs but at least they got to the right ending. I'm still not sure what is next for them but after losing the Trios Title shot, there isn't much at the moment. The fans still seem interested in them so maybe they can find something new, but for now, this is about all they can be doing.

Dynamite recap.

Renee Young brings out Jeff Jarrett and company (Serpenticos's team can get a name but these guys just have one name after another) for a chat. Karen Jarrett cuts things off though and wants Aubrey Edwards out here right now. Cue Aubrey and Mark Briscoe, with Aubrey threatening violence. Briscoe says simmer down, but he has some bad news. AEW won't sanction a Karen vs. Aubrey match, but he can get a mixed trios match, which has

Dutt planning things out. We'll have the Jarretts and Lethal vs. Aubrey/Briscoe and....PAPA BRISCOE? That's going to be bonkers and at least they're not in the title picture anymore.

Video on the women's four way.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Mercedes Martinez vs. Skye Blue vs. Britt Baker vs. Nyle Rose

For a Women's Title match next week on Dynamite. It's a brawl to start as Marina Shafir (Rose's manager) comes in to choke Martinez. Hikaru Shida runs in to chase her off with the kendo stick as we take a break. Back with Baker shoving Rose off the top for a big crash to the apron and then the floor.

A Sling Blade gives Baker one on Martinez but Lockjaw is broken up by Rose. Baker and Sky superkick away at Rose before Baker kicks Skye down. Rose is back up with a chokeslam to Baker, with Martinez making the save this time. Baker's Stomp hits Rose but Martinez kicks her to the floor. With Baker and Martinez on the floor, Blue grabs Code Blue for the pin and the title shot at 8:54. Baker's "Huh, well what do you know about that?" look is rather good.

Rating: C+. Good enough here and it sets Blue up as the next victim for the Outcasts. The other positive thing about one of these matches is that you can have Blue get a win without hurting two of the other women in the match, with Baker being a prime example. Martinez being back is a nice boost as well, as having a veteran who can make anyone look better is always a plus. Fine enough main event and it sets up a Dynamite title match, which is all you can ask for here.

Overall Rating: C+. This was back to normal for Rampage, with a lot of stuff that was entertaining but felt like things that weren't interesting or important enough for Dynamite. With Collision coming up, I'm almost scared to see how far Rampage falls, as the likely star power around here very well could

plummet. For now though, nice effort, even if it is probably one of the last times Rampage might matter.

Results

Lucha Bros/Bandido b. Lee Moriarty/Big Bill/Ethan Page – 21
Plex to Page

Powerhouse Hobbs b. Caleb Crush – Spinebuster

Acclaimed/Billy Gunn b. Spanish Announce Project – Mic Drop to
Luther

Skye Blue b. Nyla Rose, Britt Baker and Mercedes Martinez –
Code Blue to Rose

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