

Monday Night Raw – May 5, 2008: Lights Out (Again)

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 5, 2008

Location: Air Canada Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Attendance: 16,664

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We are less than two weeks away from Judgment Day and we have a bit of a crazy boss. Last week saw General Manager William Regal crowned as King, though the power seems to have already gone to his head as he cut the show off so fans who booed him couldn't see the ending. Mr. Kennedy isn't happy and it might be time to deal with things. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of William Regal going all scooters last week.

Here is Vince McMahon to say Regal pulled the plug in the end of a title match. This has led to a variety of protests from the fans, with many of them demanding that Vince appear tonight. However, McMahon finds Regal's actions to be visionary, so Regal reminds Vince of himself! He is all for Regal's actions and no punishment is coming.

Here is Regal for a chat. Regal doesn't like the fans disrespecting him again here...so turn out the lights again. He has the lights turned back on but says he won't be disrespected. Cue Mr. Kennedy to interrupt, saying all Regal has to do is agree to face him. Instead, Regal puts him in the main event against...the entire ECW roster (or about six members). This is part of a deal with Armando Alejandro Estrada to promote tomorrow's 100th ECW, but here is HHH to interrupt.

Just like Mr. Kennedy Kennedy here, HHH means no disrespect and tells Regal to not make mistakes. Last week, Regal cutting the lights off during HHH's match and disrespecting him would be mistakes. HHH says Regal doesn't want a war with him, but Regal says HHH already has to defend the title against Randy Orton in a cage at Judgment Day. As for tonight, HHH can join Mr. Kennedy in the main event against ECW. Regal is absolutely nailing it here and Kennedy is feeling like quite the rebel.

Women's Title: Beth Phoenix vs. Mickie James

James is defending in a lumberjack match. Beth easily powers her around to start and gets two off a running shoulder. With James on the floor, the evil lumberjacks get in their required cheap shots but James is right back with a neckbreaker. The lumberjacks get into their big fight (at least they didn't waste time here) and we take an early break. Back with Beth cranking on both arms until Mickie fights up and dropkicks her way to freedom. The top rope Thesz press gets two and Beth is sent outside for a beating. In the melee, Melina goes for Mickie but hits Beth by mistake, allowing Mickie to grab a small package to retain.

Rating: C. This was all about the insanity going on around the ring while Mickie and Beth were just kind of in the middle. There are a lot of women in the division but there aren't many who are ready to go after the title. That is going to have to change, but for now it's likely going to be Mickie/Beth/Melina.

Chris Jericho comes up to see William Regal, who asks about Shawn Michaels' knee. Jericho is sure that Shawn is faking, which doesn't go well for him because tonight it's Jericho/Shawn vs. Miz/John Morrison.

Trevor Murdoch is singing when Trish Stratus comes in to look confused. Ron Simmons shows up for his cameo line.

Randy Orton doesn't agree with the idea that HHH had him

beaten last week but that's not the point. As for tonight, he has CM Punk, who might cash in Money In The Bank on him when Orton gets the title back in two weeks.

Katie Lea Burchill/Paul Burchill vs. John Cutler

Hold on though as William Regal pops up to say Jim Ross isn't going to call this match. Instead, here is Mike Adamle to take the spot, leaving Ross looking rather annoyed. Paul chops him up against the ropes as Katie seems rather pleased. A knee drop lets Katie stomp away and we hit the chinlock. Back up and Cutler tries to roll Katie up, earning a stomping from Paul. The top rope double stomp from Katie sets up the single version from Paul, giving Katie the pin.

Rating: D+. There's something to be said about Katie being the focal point here as she has the charisma to get noticed, but I'm not sure where this is going to go. The bigger focus being on the commentary didn't help either, but the Burchills are at least different. Paul still has the intensity to make something like this work, though it hasn't exactly gotten there yet.

Chris Jericho comes up to Shawn Michaels in the back. Shawn says he's really hurt but he'll do his best, as always. Jericho doesn't seem to buy it.

Chris Jericho/Shawn Michaels vs. Miz/John Morrison

Non-title, JR is back on commentary and Shawn is badly limping on the way to the ring. Jericho and Miz start things off with Jericho hitting a quick suplex. Morrison comes in to kick away in the corner, setting up the springboard spinning kick to the face. It's right back to Miz, who is quickly pulled into the Walls. Morrison makes the save so Shawn comes in with Sweet Chin Music, leaving him writhing in pain. A quick Lionsault gives Jericho the pin.

Rating: C. This was more storyline advancement than anything

else as Michaels is either telling the truth or milking the heck out of faking the injury. It's an interesting story as it could go either way, which is something you don't get very often. If nothing else, Jericho being all smug and knowing that Shawn is faking it is making for good TV. Now just stop pinning the champs and it's that much better.

Shawn needs help getting to the back and Jericho is confused.

CM Punk vs. Randy Orton

Orton starts fast by sending him to the apron and then down to the floor in a crash. Back in and Orton starts the circle stomp but misses the knee drop. Punk kicks away but misses a springboard spinning crossbody. Back up and Punk kicks away, setting up the knee into the corner and the bulldog right back out of it. Cue William Regal though and let's turn out the lights because this match is over.

Rating: C. Well that's certainly a different way to go and this Regal stuff is getting more interesting. It's not often that you see someone actually shaking things up like this and it's making things feel different. Sometimes that is the way you need to go and making Orton mad is going to be an upgrade as well. The match was energetic while it lasted but it didn't exactly have time to go anywhere before the storyline ending.

Post break Orton is livid and goes to find Regal for some answers.

It's time for Carlito's Cabana. We look at Roddy Piper making a surprise appearance last week and slapping Santino Marella in the face. Therefore, here is Piper as this week's guest. Carlito says he gets that Santino can be annoying but Piper took it too far. Piper: "Listen Buckwheat."

We hear about Piper taking it too far every time, including when he beat cancer. He's not going to apologize for anything, including not wanting to sit and talk about what he did.

Carlito says he would have slapped Piper back but Piper says Carlito should be glad that Piper didn't bring a seagull to make a nest in Carlito's hair.

Cue Santino Marella to mock Piper for taking so long to become Intercontinental Champion. Piper brings up Santino's recent DUI, but here is Cody Rhodes to interrupt. Now it's Cryme Tyme (Piper: "HOLY COW!") and the villains (oddly enough not including Piper) bail. The good guys dance. This was there to get Piper on the show and for the dancing at the end, but the seemingly endless Carlito/Marella Tag Team Title chase is dragging things down.

Post break Cryme Tyme is still in the ring and thinks they have a lot of stuff to sell around here. They have a hammock and coconuts! Selling ensues and a lot of money changes hands (with a fan getting the hammock).

Judgment Day rundown.

JBL is standing next to his limo and offers to share his lifestyle. We go inside the limo for a ride into the arena, with JBL talking about all of the features in the limo (full bar, high speed internet). This was a very JBL thing to do and it worked.

John Bradshaw Layfield vs. DH Smith

Before the match, JBL talks about Smith's father but says the British Bulldog can't help him. The beating is on fast and the Clothesline From JBL finishes in about a minute.

Post match the big beating is on until referees break it up.

William Regal tells the ECW roster to get it together tonight because they have a big mission. The team goes to the ring, with Kane glaring at Regal as he leaves.

Smackdown Rebound.

HHH/Mr. Kennedy vs. ECW Roster

One fall to a finish. Kennedy and Elijah Burke start things off with Kennedy grabbing a front facelock and handing it off to HHH. The jumping knee drops Matt Striker so it's quickly off to Mike Knox. The villains (mostly at least) take over on HHH, who shrugs it off and brings Kennedy back in. Tommy Dreamer grabs a snap suplex and brings in Kofi Kingston, only to have Shelton Benjamin tag himself in. The distraction lets HHH come back in and everything breaks down. Kane chokeslams Kennedy but Bam Neeley jumps Kane, allowing Chavo Guerrero to hit a frog splash for the pin.

Rating: C. These things are always weird as there is only so much you can do with two vs. more than a dozen wrestlers. ECW was more or less rotating wrestlers in and out and the real focus here was on the visual of having that many people out there. I'm not sure how much of a punishment it was, but at least it wasn't the same stuff we see every week.

Post match the big brawl is on with HHH cleaning house but the lights go out. They come back up and it's Randy Orton with an RKO to HHH to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. The Regal stuff is interesting and that is what the show needed given how weak the wrestling was this week. There is only so much you can get out of a bunch of weak matches and a kind of strange Roddy Piper segment and this show proved it. Hopefully this was just a one off weak show, as there are pieces, like Jericho vs. Shawn, there that could help carry the weak portions.

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NXT LVL Up – May 26, 2023: Getting Ready To Get Ready

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 26, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Mr. Stone

We are two days away from Battleground and there are quite a few matches on the card that can steal the night. Now almost no one on that show is going to be tied into this one, but that is LVL Up in a nutshell. You never know what you are going to see around here and I'm curious to see how it goes...for some reason. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Oro Mensah vs. Tavion Heights

Mensah tries to pick up the pace to start but Heights pulls him down into a headlock. Back up and some armdrags have Heights frustrated, followed by a high crossbody to give Mensah two. Heights powers up with a heck of a German suplex

but a kick to the face staggers him. Said staggering doesn't last long as Heights is back up with a capture suplex into a chinlock. Mensah fights up and hits a springboard moonsault to a standing Heights, followed by a flipping kick to the head. A springboard kick to Heights face gives Mensah the pin at 5:31.

Rating: C. As usual, power vs. speed is going to work almost every time and that was the case again here. Mensah can fly around well enough and the springboards looked good here. Heights is another one of those names who has been around this show for a few months but not done much, which is going to have to change at some point.

Yulisa Leon and Valentina Feroz are glad to be back home and it's time to take it to Lash Legend and Jakara Jackson.

Boa vs. Javier Bernal

Boa throws a kick to start but gets caught in a headlock for his efforts. Back up and Boa's second kick connects, only to have Bernal tie the leg up in the ropes for a kick to the knee. The leg cranking is on until Bernal's knee drop hits the mat. Boa uses the good knee to stagger Bernal, who is right back with a jumping Downward Spiral for the pin at 4:58.

Rating: C-. Not much to this one as Boa continues to be a good look and little more. He isn't horrible or even bad, but there is nothing to him that would make me want to see him again. Bernal has figured out how to be an annoying schmuck and that should carry him a long way in NXT, if not in WWE as well.

Yulisa Leon/Valentina Feroz vs. Jakara Jackson/Lash Legend

Feroz works on Jackson's arm to start and an assisted springboard flip dive gives Leon two. It's back to Feroz, who gets caught in the wrong corner so the beating is on. Legend charges into an elbow but is fine enough to slam Feroz off the top. Jackson grabs a reverse chinlock before Legend misses a splash. A pump kick cuts off Feroz's comeback bid so Feroz

goes with an enziguri for a breather. The hot tag brings in Leon to clean house as everything breaks down. Jackson gets caught putting her feet on the ropes in a rollup and a suplex/high crossbody combination finishes for Leon at 5:42.

Rating: C. This was about getting Leon back in the ring in NXT and she looked smooth enough out there. Feroz and Leon are a team who could get somewhere with a bit more polish and it is nice to have them back. The tag division could certainly use the help, though that isn't going to happen until the titles are back in NXT in the first place. For now though, nice return.

Overall Rating: C. I wasn't exactly feeling this one, but the action was passable enough. LVL Up might actually start serving a bit more of a purpose, as there are a lot of gaps that need to be filled on the main NXT roster. While some of these people aren't quite ready to fill in those spots, they could be ready to start getting ready and that isn't a bad place to be.

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NXT LVL Up – May 19, 2023: They're At It Again

NXT LVL Up

Date: May 19, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're getting closer to Battleground and that could be quite the shakeup for NXT. That is something LVL Up could use, as the show tends to be in a rather similar mold a lot of the time. It might be helpful for the wrestlers around here, but that doesn't make things all that entertaining. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Eddy Thorpe vs. Kale Dixon

Feeling out process to start with Thorpe's headlock not working all that well. Back up and Dixon runs him over with a shoulder, followed by some forearms to the spine. The neck crank and chinlock go on until Thorpe is up with a dragon screw legwhip. A Saito suplex out of the corner gets two on Dixon and the jumping elbow finishes him off at 4:52.

Rating: C. Thorpe continues to beat up lower level competition and Dixon continues to be Dixon. In other words, it was exactly what you would have expected from these two on this stage. It wouldn't surprise me to see Thorpe getting a push on the main NXT show, but it might take some more seasoning to get him ready.

Kelani Jordan and Wendy Choo are ready to team together against Elektra Lopez and Lola Vice. Apparently karma is a bi...scuit.

Kelani Jordan/Wendy Choo vs. Elektra Lopez/Lola Vice

Lopez powers Jordan around without much effort to start and it's Vice coming in for a double shoulder. Back up and Jordan takes Vice over to Choo for an assisted moonsault. A tornado DDT hits Vice but she brings Lopez in off a blind tag to take over. Jordan gets knocked hard into the corner and a gutbuster sets up a body vice to stay on the ribs. A quick kick away allows the tag off to Choo as everything breaks down. The Snooze Button gives Choo the pin on Vice at 5:36.

Rating: C. I can see why WWE wants to push Jordan, who has the impressive athleticism and appeal to become something down the line. She needs experience though and getting her feet wet on this show is a good start. Jordan has a long way to go, but at least she is getting started with a solid base.

Dante Chen vs. Luca Crusifino

They fight over a lockup to start as we get a LET'S GO LAWYER chant. Chen goes for the hammerlock to take over before some armdrags into the armbar have Luca in more trouble. Back up and Luca grabs a neckbreaker for two, followed by the double arm crank. With that broken up, Chen hammers away in the corner but the threat of the double chop sends Luca outside. Luca loads up the briefcase but when it's taken away, a thumb to the eye lets him roll up Chen for the pin at 5:15.

Rating: C. I'm sorry what now? A young up and comer beat Chen? I'm not sure how to handle this but it's nice to see for a change. As usual, Chen is fine enough in the ring and certainly not bad, but he has such a history of running people over and I do not get the point having him beat so many people without actually going anywhere. That being said, Luca is a bit of a weird case and I could go for having him around a bit

more in the future.

Overall Rating: C-. It says a lot when your star power is comprised of Thorpe, Choo and Chen, which isn't exactly top level talent in NXT. The wrestling was completely watchable and the show is less than thirty minutes from beginning to end so it isn't like you feel you're wasting your time. In other words, this was the weaker end of LVL Up and that's not exactly thrilling stuff.

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Daily News Update – June 1, 2023

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[All American Wrestling – April 8, 1990](#)

[Dynamite – May 31, 2023](#)

Top Of The Charts: Update On Leading WWE Merchandise Seller.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/top-charts-update-leading-wwe-merchandise-seller/>

LOOK: Seth Rollins Splits His Pants On Monday Night Raw (And It's Bad).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/look-seth-rollins-splits-pants-monday-night-raw-bad/>

Third Time? 36 Year Old Former WWE Champion Open To Potential Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/third-time-36-year-old-former-wwe-champion-open-potential-return/>

There It Is: AEW Makes Official Announcement On CM Punk's Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aew-makes-official-announcement-cm-punks-return/>

WATCH: Bret Hart On Wrestlers Who Would Not Pass Him The Torch And Someone Who Did.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-bret-hart-wrestlers-not-pass-torch-someone/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Details On Bray Wyatt's WWE Return, How He Will Be Presented.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-details-bray-wyatts-wwe-return-will-presented/>

Oh No He Didn't? Seth Rollins References AEW Star In Apology To Rhea Ripley.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/oh-no-didnt-seth-rollins-references-aew-star-apology-rhea-riple/>

Nope: AEW's Ricky Starks Rips Four Pillars Concept, Asks How Much Money They Have Made.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/speak-mind-ricky-stars-r-ips-four-pillars-concept-asks-much-money-made/>

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Dynamite – May 31, 2023: They Can Aftermath

Dynamite

Date: May 31, 2023

Location: Viejas Arena, San Diego, California

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

We're done with Double Or Nothing and that means we have less than a month to go before Forbidden Door. While there were some hints at where things are going at the media scrum, it's time to really set some things up this week, as they're kind of running out of time. Let's get to it.

[Here is Double Or Nothing if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Blackpool Combat Club vs. Lucha Bros/Bandido

The Club starts the brawl fast and take everyone to the floor before the bell. The Club beats them up on the floor before it's Yuta throwing Bandido back inside to officially get started. Bandido gets a sixty second (and yes he counted) brainbuster for two on Yuta as the Bros have Claudio and

Moxley's arms. With that broken up, it's an assisted piledriver on the floor to drop Bandido and we take a break.

Back with Moxley choking Bandido but Bandido slips away and brings Penta in to clean house. Everything breaks down and it's back to Bandido for two off a splash, with Danielson sounding relieved when Yuta kicked out. The rapid elbows knock Bandido silly and the seat belt finishes for Yuta at 10:58.

Rating: B. This was a match that made sense as while the Club is better, they should have had this much trouble with a team as talented as Bandido and the Lucha Bros. It was a competitive match and that Bandido suplex was incredibly impressive. The Club probably isn't done with the Elite but for now, they got a nice win after the big one at Double Or Nothing.

Post match Danielson is so pleased with Yuta that he goes to the ring and raises his hand.

The Young Bucks and Hangman Page are banged up from Double Or Nothing and Kenny Omega is back in Canada. They're not done yet and can't believe how far they went...and here is Evil Uno to talk to Page, because that relationship must continue for all time and eternity.

Here are Juice Robinson and Jay White for a chat. They remind Ricky Starks that he lost the International Title battle royal and then move on to FTR, who are just kind of stupid. Cue FTR, with Robinson and White knowing that they're here to join Bullet Club Gold! All they have to do is ask nicely, but a roll of coins to the chin drops FTR and the beatdown is on. Ricky Starks runs in for the save and he issues the challenge to White to finish it next week.

Tony Khan has a big announcement: CM Punk will be on Collision. Well...yeah. It's nice to have it officially announced.

Big Bill vs. Swerve Strickland vs. Trent Beretta

Strickland bails to the floor to start but he's back inside so Bill can hit a bunch of running clotheslines in the corner. Bill knocks Swerve to the floor and boots Trent down as we take a break. We come back with Bill being knocked to the floor and Trent moonsaulting down onto him. Swerve hits the running boot off the apron to drop Trent before everyone heads back inside.

A rather nice double superplex puts Bill down but he's right back up with a Boss Man Slam. Swerve breaks that up with a kick to the head for two on Bill, followed by the rolling Downward Spiral on Trent. The Swerve Stomp misses and Trent hits the running knee into a piledriver for two as Bill makes a save of his own. Swerve kicks Bill to the apron and stomps him down, followed by a crucifix to finish Trent at 8:53.

Rating: B. This was a heck of a lot better than I was expecting and it's very nice to see Swerve get the win. Swerve was the intelligence going through all of the mental aspects, Trent was flying around a bit and Bill was the monster. They worked well together and hopefully this means Swerve gets to move up the ladder a bit, as it's long past due. Much like him facing Keith Lee in a singles match.

Video on Kris Statlander returning and winning the TBS Title. Statlander talks about how great it means to be back and to have a title that means something. She'll have the best title reign ever.

Acclaimed and Billy Gunn are here after losing their shot at the Trios Titles. They win as a team and they lose as a team, but Owens says a legend like Billy deserves to be a champion one more time. The fans seem to approve.

Here are Don Callis and Konosuke Takeshita, with Callis hoping that the fans are booing Kenny Omega. Callis takes credit for all of Omega's success as the fans boo him out of the

building. He says he lost a nephew but gained a son in Takeshita, who is the best athlete he has ever seen. He's even better than Okada! Takeshita promises to destroy the Elite, with Callis promising to do the same as he builds a new family. Like the story or not, the crowd heat here was off the charts and that's why this is the top angle in AEW today.

Wardlow and Arn Anderson are happy with the win at Double Or Nothing. If Luchasaurus wants to be next, Wardlow is happy to finish the job.

Gates Of Agony vs. Darby Allin/Orange Cassidy

The Gates jump them to start and Cassidy is knocked down hard. Allin tries a springboard but gets shouldered out of the air. Cue Brian Cage and the rest of the Mogul Embassy to watch from the stage, with the Gates running both Allin and Cassidy over on the floor. We take a break and come back with Allin getting crushed with a backslash on the apron.

Cassidy gets knocked to the floor and Allin gets planted down for two more. Allin finally slips over and brings in Cassidy for the tornado DDT and a near fall on Kaun. Cassidy gets crushed between the Gates but he's fine enough to hurricanrana both of them. It's back to Allin to pick up the pace, including various running shoulders in the corner. A missed charges sets up the Coffin Drop to finish Toa at 11:34.

Rating: B-. Nice stuff here as Allin and Cassidy are going to get a positive reaction no matter what they do. The Gates have a great look and feel like they could be monsters against anyone, but it might help if they ever won a match against any serious opponents. When your biggest win is against a team who split up during the match, I'm not sure how much value you really have, great look or no great look.

Post match Brian Cage comes to the ring but Sting makes his return to clear the ring.

MJF brags about his win and says he's running out of competition.

Tony Schiavone brings out Hook for a chat. Before Hook can say anything though, here are Dralistico and Preston Vance to interrupt. They're tired of not getting any chances so they'll take one now, meaning the beatdown is on. Jungle Boy makes the save with a chair and Jose the Assistant gets suplexed so the heroes can stand tall.

Toni Storm and the Outcasts are happy with the Women's World Title win and she'll be at the House Rules live events.

TBS Title: Nyla Rose vs. Kris Statlander

Rose is challenging. Statlander slugs away in the corner to start and hits a running dropkick. Rose wins a battle over a slam but misses a backsplash, allowing Statlander to grab a bodyscissors. Back up and Rose suplexes her into the corner as Taya Valkyrie is watching backstage.

We take a break and come back with Rose missing a splash, allowing Statlander to go up top. Rose is able to knock her down though and they head outside, with Statlander being whipped into the barricade. A cannonball against the barricade crushes Statlander and a chokeslam gives Rose two back inside. Statlander is right back with a knockdown though and the 450 retains the title at 7:58.

Rating: C+. This was a way to give Statlander a clean win without the shenanigans before the match. If nothing else, it's nice to have Statlander back so she can have a regular match instead of everything going fast. Rose still feels like a monster so a win against her means something, making this rather logical all around.

Here's what's coming on various shows, including an all title match Rampage. Now granted none of those titles are from AEW, but it's all title matches.

We look at Adam Cole beating Chris Jericho via referee stoppage at Double Or Nothing.

Chris Jericho/Saraya vs. Adam Cole/Britt Baker

Cole takes Jericho into the corner to start and chops away before knocking him outside. Back in and the women come in, with Baker hitting a quick Sling Blade into the Air Raid Crash. Jericho trips Baker down though and we take a break. Back with Saraya knocking Baker to the floor so the Outcasts can run in and beat her down. Cue Hikaru Shida for the save with a kendo stick, allowing Baker to get two off a rollup.

It's back to the men with Jericho knocking Cole down and hitting the Lionsault (BIG reaction and a Y2J chant for that one) for a near fall. Baker comes back in and knocks Saraya off the top, but Jericho covers Saraya so Baker can't hit a splash. Baker does it anyway, driving Jericho onto Saraya for two. Cole comes back in and is caught in the Walls...but Baker makes the save with the Lockjaw.

Jericho is in trouble until Saraya makes the save, leaving the guys to slug it out again. A double clothesline puts both of them down and it's Saraya coming back in to plant Baker with the fisherman's DDT. Jericho brings in the bat but walks into Cole's superkick. Baker superkicks Saraya and a double superkick drops Jericho. The Boom finishes Jericho at 13:13.

Rating: B-. That more or less has to be it for the feud as there is nothing left for Cole to prove over Jericho. Baker and Cole do not get together very often in a match and it worked pretty well here. I would assume this is a way to move Cole up to the main event and thankfully this was a lot better than the Double Or Nothing match. Good main event here and hopefully it wraps everything up for the feud.

Overall Rating: B. Solid show here with a bunch of good matches, though it was interesting that the World Title was barely mentioned save for a quick MJF promo. There was still

almost nothing mentioned or Forbidden Door though and that could become a problem rather quickly. For now though, it was a heck of a Dynamite with a bunch of good action and some storyline advancement, so nice job on a follow up to a pay per view.

Results

Blackpool Combat Club b. Bandido/Lucha Bros – Seat belt to Bandido

Swerve Strickland b. Trent and Big Bill – Crucifix to Trent

Darby Allin/Orange Cassidy b. Gates Of Agony – Coffin Drop to Toa

Kris Statlander b. Nyla Rose – 450

Adam Cole/Britt Baker b. Chris Jericho/Saraya – Boom to Jericho

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All American Wrestling – April 8, 1990: The Sweet Spot

All American Wrestling

Date: April 8, 1990

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bobby Heenan, Gorilla Monsoon, Hillbilly Jim

Hosts: Gene Okerlund, Hillbilly Jim

This popped on my YouTube recommendations and I can always go for some 1990 WWF. We are a week removed from Wrestlemania but it's hard to say how much of this was taped in advance. If there is a studio portion, I'm sure we'll hear all about it between a parade of squashes. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Gene Okerlund and Hillbilly Jim welcome us to the show and tell us about the Ultimate Warrior winning the WWF Title. Jim insists that Hulkamania will live forever though. They run down the card and we're ready to go.

Dusty Rhodes vs. Don Stevens

Commentary goes over Dusty's various careers, with Vince mentioning that Dusty was a "son of a plumber." A dropkick and suplex set up a chinlock, followed by the big elbow to finish Stevens at 2:08.

The hosts talk about Wrestlemania VI and Hillbilly Jim's hair. Because reasons.

House show ads, which are always cool to see.

SPECIAL REPORT!

Ultimate Warrior beat Hulk Hogan to win the WWF Title at Wrestlemania VI and we see some still shots. They make sure to

clarify that Hogan is STILL awesome. Of note: we're told that Jack Tunney will NOT sanction a rematch because it would be too physically grueling on both of them. That's quite a nice way to cover up why Hogan never got a rematch, though you would think it would have been mentioned more often.

Orient Express vs. Omar Atlas/Paul Roma

Mr. Fuji is here with the Express, who clear the ring rather quickly. We settle down to Atlas in trouble as we get an insert promo from Fuji about how the Express will destroy anyone. Kato strikes away and Tanaka comes back in for a spinning forearm. A backbreaker/top rope ax handle combination finishes Atlas at 3:17.

Rating: C-. Total destruction here and it's kind of interesting that Roma was in this spot just a few months before Power & Glory started up. The Express was a weird situation as they had all kinds of talent and could have a nice match with anyone (their stuff with the Rockers was great) but they never got above the midcard. It's a shame as they could have been better, but they never got the chance.

Wrestlemania VII will (not) be at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum!

Warlord vs. Ricky Ataki

Warlord debuts Slick as his new manager and drops Ataki with a flying shoulder. A clothesline puts Ataki on the floor and there's a suplex to drop him again. We get a quick Slick/Warlord inset interview with Slick being happy about his new acquisition. Warlord finishes with a running powerslam at 2:34. Nice squash.

We go to Madison Square Garden, seemingly on October 28, 1989.

Dino Bravo vs. Bret Hart

We're joined in progress with Bret in trouble on the floor and

having his already banged up chest knocked into the barricade. Back in and Bravo grabs the reverse chinlock before sending Bret right back to the floor. A sunset flip gives Bret two and but Bravo is right back with the bearhug.

They even drop to their knees for a bit in a weird spot before Bret bites his way to freedom. The bearhug goes right back on though and this time it's a series of elbows to break it up. A suplex drops Bravo and Bret starts the comeback, including dropping an elbow for two. The backbreaker sets up the middle rope elbow but the time expires at 8:46 shown for the 20:00 draw (which was actually about 18:40).

Rating: C-. That wasn't exactly great as it was mainly spent on the bearhug and Hart having to fight out of trouble. Then the ending came out of nowhere, which granted might have had something to do with showing about nine minutes of the match. These two fought quite a bit but I'm not sure I've ever seen them have a good one, so this wasn't a surprise.

We go to the Brother Love Show, with the Bushwhackers as this week's guests. Love laughs at them about Rhythm and Blues attacking them recently, sending Butch into a rant about how IT'S NOT FUNNY WHEN SOMEONE GETS HIT WITH A GUITAR. Butch threatens Love, who runs off to end a rather nothing segment, save for butch losing his mind.

Earthquake vs. Jim Gorman

Earthquake has Jimmy Hart with him and promises to hurt Hulk Hogan. The powerslam, a top rope chop to the head, and the Earthquake finishes Gorman at 1:37.

Post match Earthquake crushes him two more times and Gorman leaves on a stretcher.

House show ads.

Jim Duggan vs. Black Bart

Duggan works on the arm to start and sends him into the corner for a clothesline. The three point clothesline finishes Bart at 2:34. Duggan continues to be goofy fun and that would be the case forever.

Barbarian, with Bobby Heenan, says this is his year. Heenan says they're coming for the good guys.

Jimmy Snuka says his mind is clean and he loves competition.

Gene thinks there are animals in Jim's beard to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. There's nothing much to the show but that's kind of the point. This was about getting people on the show and mentioning some of the things they were doing. Granted in this case you had Wrestlemania fallout so there was quite a bit to cover from the biggest show of the year. I could go for some more like this, as it's quick and easy while showcasing a lot of the talent of the era.

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Daily News Update – May 31, 2023

Make sure you check out a recent review:

[NXT – May 30, 2023](#)

Congratulations! WWE Star Announces She Is Pregnant!

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/congratulations-wwe-star-announces-pregnant/>

Home Again? Injured WWE Star Backstage At Monday Night Raw, Expected Back Soon.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/home-injured-wwe-star-backstage-monday-night-raw-expected-back-soon/>

Again: Another WWE Star Out Of Action With Injury, May Need Surgery.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/another-wwe-star-action-injury-may-need-surgery/>

WATCH: Two WWE Stars Make Surprise Appearances On NXT, One With Title In Sight.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-two-wwe-stars-make-surprise-appearances-nxt-one-title-sight/>

She's The First: New Title Reign Sets All Time WWE Milestone (Cool Trivia).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-first-new-title-reign-sets-time-wwe-milestone-cool-trivia/>

WATCH: Surprise Return Takes Place On NXT As Mystery Attacker

Is Revealed.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-surprise-return-takes-place-nxt-mystery-attacker-revealed/>

She's Mad: Rhea Ripley Threatens Monday Night Raw Star After Humiliating Her.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-mad-rhea-ripley-threatens-monday-night-raw-star-humiliating/>

WATCH: Bret Hart Heaps Praise On Surprising Name, Wishes He Could Have Faced Him.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-bret-hart-heaps-praise-surprising-name-wishes-faced/>

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NXT – May 30, 2023: Fallout And Guest Stars

NXT

Date: May 30, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're done with Battleground and that means it is time for NXT to head back home. There is a lot of fallout to deal with here, but we also have a weaponized steel cage match. That would be for those of you who just don't get enough out of

putting two wrestlers inside a big steel box. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Gigi Dolin vs. Jacy Jayne, as the two of them were part of that famed two woman team known as Toxic Attraction. They were friends and now they're not, so let's put them in a cage full of weapons.

Gigi Dolin vs. Jacy Jayne

In a weaponized cage, but Jayne jumps Dolin from behind during their entrances. Dolin is sent into the steps and the cage wall before Jayne throws her inside for the opening bell. Jayne whips her with a belt, only to be sent into the cage. Dolin gets in some not great belt shots of her own before putting a trashcan over Dolin's head.

Some kicks rock Jayne and a running dropkick against the trashcan gets two. Dolin chokes with the belt some more and we take a break. Back with Dolin firing off knees and hitting an STO for two. Jayne plants her on some chairs for two and it's time to load up a table. That's a bit too long though and Dolin fights back on top, setting up a kind of chokeslam through the table for the pin at 12:31.

Rating: C+. It was a violent enough match (in the WWE sense that is) but I'm getting rather tired of having to put weapons in a cage. If that's the option, why bother with the cage at all? Just do a street fight and have the weapons that way instead. Other than that, this still didn't exactly feel like some big blood feud, but at least this should wrap it up for good.

Long recap of Battleground.

Wes Lee is happy with his win on Sunday but he's a bit sore. The Dyad comes in to yell at him but Tyler Bate evens things up. A tag match seems likely.

Tony D'Angelo had his mugshot taken.

Gallus is happy with their win at Battleground when Stacks comes in. Stacks accuses them of turning D'Angelo in and gets beaten down as a result.

Here are Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams to brag about retaining at Battleground. Before they can get too far, here are Noam Dar, Oro Mensah, Lash Legend and Jakara Jackson to interrupt. Dar brags about retaining his title but Williams points out the cheating that it took to keep the Heritage Cup. Hayes says the Heritage Cup is on a level, but the title is on a bigger level. They argue about whether Hayes could beat Dar once, let alone in two falls, with Hayes being accused of practicing load management (meaning he doesn't wrestle often). Hayes gives Dar a title shot tonight.

Cora Jade brags about how unfair she was treated in the tournament but Ivy Nile comes in to tell her to shut up. They get catty with each other and a match seems likely.

Reggie comes up to Axiom in the back and thanks Axiom for opening his eyes. That's why he helped Axiom against Dabba-Kato last week. Reggie leaves and Axiom doesn't seem to know what to make of that.

Dyad vs. Wes Lee/Tyler Bate

Bate takes Fowler down to start and gets two off a sunset flip. Lee comes in and kicks Fowler in the head, setting up a spinning crossbody for two more. The good guys clear the ring with dropkicks but the Dyad is back in for the staredown....and Mustafa Ali is here. We take a break and come back with Ali on commentary as Bate is in trouble.

Bate knees his way out of a double suplex attempt as Ali talks about being a free agent, meaning he can show up anywhere. The tag brings in Lee to clean house, including a kick to Reid's back in the corner. A double Cardiac Kick drops the Dyad and

stereo Spiral Taps knock them silly. The Tyler Driver 97 finish Reid at 9:27.

Rating: C+. The match was good enough, but the Ali stuff is what matters here. Ali is someone who definitely needs to come up with something new and going down to NXT, where he can do more of his own style without getting crushed, might be just the ticket. For now though, I'll setting for Bate rising up the ranks a little bit more.

Post match Ivy Nile runs out to jump Ava, drawing in Joe Gacy to go after Lee. Mustafa Ali comes in to help clear the ring and poses with Lee and Bate.

We look back at Drew Gulak and Charlie Dempsey mocking Thea Hail at Chase U during Battleground.

Earlier today, Gulak was running a grappling class and Hail made sure to get involved. Hail gets in with Dempsey and we cut away before we see how it goes.

Here is Tiffany Stratton for her big celebration, complete with various pictures of her in the ring. She lists off various stars who have won the title before and talks about what it means to be a champion. Tiffany calls out all of the women in the locker room, who must feel star struck. She brags about how she might just retire for life and thinks that everyone should have a chance at the Tiffy Title. Next week, it's a battle royal to crown the new #1 contender, but it doesn't matter who wins. Balloons and confetti go off but a bunch of women get in the ring to knock her to the floor.

Noam Dar's goons come up to Trick Williams and they bicker a bit.

Dani Palmer is in the ring to demand that the attacker show her face. We see some clips of the attacker's attacks and here is the attacker to attack again. And it's Blair Davenport.

Last week, Eddy Thorpe was consoled over his loss when Damon Kemp came in to mock him. They'll fight next week (as in a week from this show airing, not a week from them arguing).

Joe Coffey vs. Stacks

The rest of Gallus is banned from the building. Stacks starts fast with a headlock but gets sent into the corner for his efforts. A knee and elbow to the ribs give Coffey two but Stacks is able to knock him outside. We take a break and come back with Coffey hitting a release suplex for two as Stacks stays in trouble. Stacks gets in an elbow but they take it outside where Stacks is sent into the steps. The running headbutt to the chest and All The Best For The Bells finishes Stacks at 10:00.

Rating: C. Well that was a bit long, which might have something to do with the roster still being a bit thin. Joe hasn't been in the ring much lately but he can still wrestle a competent power match. Stacks seems to be up to something with the whole D'Angelo deal and I'm curious to see where that goes. Then again there is every chance that Stacks turned on D'Angelo, and I'm not sure how interesting that feud would be. For now though, they had a decent enough match here.

Mr. Stone isn't happy with Von Wagner being mad and says it's time he sees a therapist. Stone will even pay for it! Wagner promises to think about the offer.

We get a kind of mini documentary on Ilja Dragunov getting ready for his Last Man Standing Match, followed by a look at the match itself. This, and the match, were rather good.

Cora Jade vs. Ivy Nile

Nile starts fast but gets pulled down by the hair to cut her off for two. Jade ties her in the ropes for a chop, which hits Nile HARD in the face. A running dropkick gets two but Nile fights up. Cue Ava for a distraction though, allowing Jade to

hit Jaded for the pin at 4:14.

Rating: C-. This didn't have much time to go anywhere and they had an angle in the middle to take away even more of what they had. I can see why Jade is getting the win as she is in a better place at the moment, but I still think there is something to be done with Nile. She's a unique kind of star and if she can get better in the talking department, she has a bright future.

Tank Ledger and Hank Walker love chicken parm, honey badgers and buffalo sauce. Malik Blade and Edris Enofe come in to discuss sauces and everyone seems cool.

The Diamond Mine and Schism get in an argument backstage.

NXT Title: Noam Dar vs. Carmelo Hayes

Only Hayes is defending, this isn't under Heritage Cup rules. Trick Williams, Jakara Jackson, Oro Mensah and Lash Legend are all here too. Dar takes over to start but Hayes picks up the pace to get a breather. A springboard spinning crossbody takes Dar to the floor and we take a break. Back with Hayes hitting the Fade Away for two and striking away as Dar can't get much going.

A pump kick drops Dar again and Hayes plants him down for two. The seconds get in a fight on the floor, which is enough for Williams to be ejected. The distraction lets Dar elbow Hayes down for two and slap on the kneebar. With that broken up, Dar puts Hayes on top but here are Dragon Lee and Nathan Frazer to cut off Mensah's interference. Hayes hits a dive onto the villains on the floor, setting up Nothing But Net to retain the title at 11:12.

Rating: B-. I'm not sure how much drama there was to this one but Dar isn't going to be hurt by losing to the NXT Champion. Lee and Frazer still being mad over Battleground makes sense and I liked having them run in here. Hayes can put on a good

match with anyone and having him rack up another win is a smart move. He just needs a next big challenger to come after him.

Post match Baron Corbin of all people runs out and jumps Hayes. Corbin holds up the NXT Title to end the show. I've heard far worse ideas.

Overall Rating: C+. It wasn't a great show, but there was enough good action and stuff moving forward to come off of the pretty great Battleground. I like having the main roster guys come down, as they feel like a big deal and very well could pick up a title here or there. For now, we're probably getting ready for the big TV special before setting up Great American Bash and that isn't a bad way to go after one of the bigger (and best) shows of the year.

Results

Gigi Dolin b. Jacy Jayne – Chokeslam through a table

Wes Lee/Tyler Bate b. Dyad – Tyler Driver 97 to Reid

Joe Coffey b. Stacks – All The Best For The Bells

Cora Jade b. Ivy Nile – Jaded

Carmelo Hayes b. Noam Dar – Nothing But Net

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Daily News Update – May 30, 2023

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[Double Or Nothing 2023](#)

[NXT Battleground 2023](#)

[Monday Night Raw – May 29, 2023](#)

How Awesome: AEW Couple Announces They Are Expecting A Baby!

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/awesome-aew-couple-announces-expecting-baby/>

And NEW! Several Title Changes Take Place At Multiple Shows Sunday Night.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-several-title-changes-take-place-multiple-shows-sunday-night/>

Up Next: Roman Reigns Reportedly Has Three Very Interesting Potential Title Challengers.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-roman-reigns-reportedly-three-interesting-potential-title-challenger/>

Burn? Cody Rhodes' Wife Brandi Seems To Take Shot At AEW.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/burn-cody-rhodes-wife-brandi-seems-take-shot-aew/>

To The Other Side: Huge Heel Turn Takes Place In AEW Double Or Nothing.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/side-huge-heel-turn-takes-place-aew-double-nothing/>

WATCH: Former WWE Star Reveals Planned Title Change Was Canceled Due To Backstage Issue.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-former-wwe-star-reveals-planned-title-change-canceled-due-backstage-issue/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Planning Stable Split And Heel Turn For Former Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-wwe-planning-stable-split-heel-turn-former-champions/>

Getting A Break: AEW Star Taking Time Off From Company.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/getting-break-aew-star-taking-time-off-company/>

BREAKING: New Champions Crowned On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/breaking-new-champions-crowned-monday-night-raw/>

He's Not Gone: Backstage Update On Vince McMahon's Role In WWE Creative.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-not-gone-backstage-update-vince-mcmahons-role-wwe-creative/>

It's A Hit? Backstage Reaction To NXT Battleground (It Went Well).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hit-backstage-reaction-nxt-battleground-went-well/>

Blood Feud? Roman Reigns' Cousin And WWE Legend Makes Cryptic Comments After Night Of Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/blood-feud-roman-reigns-relative-wwe-legend-makes-cryptic-comments-night-champions/>

Ouch? Speculation Over Jeff Hardy Possibly Injured At AEW Double Or Nothing.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ouch-speculation-jeff-hardy-possibly-injured-aew-double-nothing/>

He Did It: Santos Escobar Does Something Very Nice And The Wrestling World Reacts.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/santos-escobar-something-nice-wrestling-world-reacts/>

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Monday Night Raw – May 29, 2023: They're Creeping Forward

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 29, 2023

Location: MVP Arena, Albany, New York

Commentators: Corey Graves, Kevin Patrick

We're done with Night Of Champions and that means it is time to deal with the fallout. The show featured a triple main event, including Seth Rollins being crowned as the new World Heavyweight Champion. In addition, Brock Lesnar beat Cody Rhodes and Jimmy Uso seems to have walked out on the Bloodline. Let's get to it.

[Here is Night Of Champions if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a long recap of Night Of Champions.

Here is new World Heavyweight Champion Seth Rollins, coming through the crowd, to open things up. After taking his sweet time to get to the ring, with streamers and a lot of singing, Rollins says it was a long road here. Finally now, Raw has a champion that wants to be here and a champion that is ready for a fight. After some more conducting, here is AJ Styles to interrupt.

Styles talks about how he gave Rollins everything he had and now the fans are saying Rollins deserves it. That's not how Styles sees it though, because the reality is Rollins earned it. Rollins shakes his hand and here is the Judgment Day to interrupt. The team talks about how they run WWE and know that it's going to be one of them that takes the title from Rollins. Ripley: "It could even be my Dom Dom!" After Rollins and Styles crack up laughing, a tag match is made for tonight.

Adam Pearce is on the phone and says that yes he gets why the tag match feels like it goes against the Raw and Smackdown being separate but it's what the fans want to see. Pearce goes over to Rollins and Styles, who are down for the match. Of note: Pearce was talking to someone above him who had to approve the match, which isn't something he usually has to do.

[Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: The Miz vs. Ricochet](#)

Ricochet starts fast and sends Miz outside, only to have Miz come back with a running hurricanrana (!) and a big boot. With Ricochet on the floor, Miz drops him onto the announcers' table, followed by a top rope ax handle back inside. We take a break and come back with Miz hitting a springboard (Miz: "I SPRINGBOARDED!") crossbody to knock Ricochet down for two more. A Codebreaker out of the corner and a DDT get two on Ricochet, who comes back with a kick to the face. The standing Sliced Bread sets up a shooting star press to finish Miz at 8:40.

Rating: C+. Miz was trying some different stuff here, to the point where it almost felt like he was trying to show off a bit. There's nothing wrong with mixing it up a bit and Miz bragging about what he was doing fit in perfectly. At the same time, Ricochet going forward is the right call, as you need someone to do a bunch of flips from the ladders.

We look at Zoey Stark helping Trish Stratus beat Becky Lynch at Night Of Champions.

Here is Trish to soak in some THANK YOU TRISH chants, but they mean nothing to her coming from you people. Trish talks about how she told us she would win and says this is what you do when you are the best ever. Now Becky can go away for a bit and let the real stars shine through. Trish is proud of someone who wanted to help her and reminds her of herself from years ago.

Cue Zoey Stark to says he is here to be behind someone as legendary as Trish. They bring up the bruise on Trish's chin, with Trish threatening Becky Lynch if she shows up. Cue Becky, who says let's do it again, with Trish sending Zoey after her. That doesn't work and Becky gets in to hammer on Trish, at least until Zoey cuts it off. The Z360 knocks Becky silly and they put a THANK YOU TRISH shirt up against her in the corner. Solid heel heat here and the feud will have some legs going forward.

Indus Sher vs. Javier Bernal/???

Jinder Mahal is here with Indus Sher (including Veer, who slips off the apron as they get in), who jump them before the bell. Bernal gets sent into the corner and the bell rings, with Veer kicking him in the head. It's off to the unnamed one, who is tossed into Bernal, setting up a legdrop/side slam combination for the pin at 1:14.

We look back at Jimmy Uso turning on Roman Reigns at Night Of Champions, seemingly leaving the Bloodline. Jey Uso's future remains to be determined.

Here are Kevin Owens (in an Usos shirt) and Sami Zayn for a chat. Sami is so happy about winning, by which he means ruining Roman Reigns' life. He has nothing to say about Roman but here is Imperium to interrupt. Ludvig Kaiser brags about Gunther but Owens snaps, shouting about what Kaiser's problem is. Sami says there is an unwritten rule that Imperium's name wasn't mentioned so they shouldn't be out here.

They have a match later with "American Alpha" but Sami brings up the two of them and Riddle beating Imperium. Kaiser calls Riddle an embarrassment but Owens is tired of hearing from Slender Man (Kaiser) and "the one with the ears" but they never hear from baldy (meaning Giovanni Vinci. That's not cool with Kaiser, who is cut off by the Alpha Academy and one heck of a SHHHHHHHUUUUUUUUSH. Owens wants to hear the other thing, giving us a big THANK YOU. And now we're ready to go.

Video on Katana Chance/Kayden Carter, who like to party.

Alpha Academy vs. Imperium

Maxxine Dupri and Gunther are here too, while Sami Zayn and Kevin Owens are on commentary. Gable is taken into the corner but comes out with a flying headscissors and a headlock takeover/flying headscissors combination. Cue Valhalla to chase Dupri off (and scare Owens to death), with the

distraction letting Imperium take over with the double dropkick to Gable in the corner.

Gable armdrags his way to freedom and kicks Vinci away, setting up the diving tag to Otis. The Caterpillar hits Kaiser, with Vinci making the save and low bridging Otis to the floor. It's back to Gable, who gets caught with a spinebuster. The Imperial Bomb is enough to finish Gable at 5:15.

Rating: C. This was the usual completely watchable Academy match while Imperium continues to establish themselves around here. That can take some time to do but what matters is WWE actually has an accomplished team who can be elevated that quickly. Other than that, the Valhalla interference was kind of amusing due to Owens' reaction, so it was kind of hard to get bothered here.

Shotzi and Raquel Rodriguez are ready for their match when Damage Ctrl comes in to mock them. Rodriguez points out that Bayley is the only member of the team who hasn't won gold since they got together, so it's time for her to look in the mirror. After they lose of course.

Video on Candice LeRae, who wears fairy wings because of the fairy tale her life has become.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Damage Ctrl vs. Ronda Rousey/Shayna Baszler vs. Raquel Rodriguez/Shotzi vs. Chelsea Green/Sonya Deville

For the vacant titles. Rodriguez powers Bayley around to start until an elbow to the face cuts her off. Bayley tags in Green, who really doesn't want to be involved. Green gets thrown into Baszler and out to the floor as we take a break. Back with Rodriguez coming in to clean house until Rousey gets the tag.

Rousey takes Rodriguez down into the armbreaker but Bayley makes the save with a top rope elbow. Green tags herself in

and sends Rodriguez into the post, setting up I'm Prettier to Rodriguez. A running knee gives Deville two but it's Sky coming in for the running knees in the corner.

Shotzi makes the save and hits a heck of a suicide dive on Bayley. Rodriguez tags Shotzi in and it's a Tower Of Doom, with Rousey taking the worst of it. The top rope backplash is pulled into the armbreaker though and Shotzi immediately taps to make Rousey/Baszler champions at 11:35.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure how much of a surprise that it was to have Rousey and Baszler win the titles but that is what should have happened. They have long since felt like the most dominant team around and they probably would have won the titles earlier if not for Rousey's injury. Sometimes you need to go with the logical move and that is what they did here.

Dolph Ziggler vs. JD McDonagh

Ziggler takes him into the corner to start but McDonagh sends him throat first into the rope. They head outside with McDonagh sending him into the steps. It's enough of a beating that McDonagh is disqualified at 1:13.

Post match the beatdown stays on Ziggler until referees break it up.

Here is Cody Rhodes, with his arm in a sling, to talk about the Brock Lesnar match. Cody's contemporaries talk about how he shouldn't have fought Lesnar but he did it anyway. No he didn't tap out, because that isn't the kind of man he wants to be. Rhodes talks about John Cena saying Never Give Up, which hurts a lot when you're stuck in a Kimura for three straight minutes.

He wants to talk to Lesnar, but since Lesnar isn't here, he'll have to talk to the camera. Rhodes issues an open challenge to fight Lesnar anywhere anytime, and even lists off the cities where he'll be soon. He also wants this to be the last time

that he lists off all of Lesnar's accomplishments but says that while Lesnar is Beast enough to break his arm, he isn't man enough to make Rhodes tap out. Lesnar is afraid of him, and that's your mic drop.

Matt Riddle wants to win Money in the Bank but Gunther interrupts. Gunther wishes him good luck because he wants Riddle to be able to cash in on him. It would be fun to beat and humiliate Riddle.

Ronda Rousey and Shayna Baszler are happy with their win, because they are here to hurt people. Loyalty is everything and now they are the champions.

Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Shinsuke Nakamura vs. Bronson Reed

Nakamura manages to knock him outside to start but Reed is back in with a big shoulder. The rolling splash crushes Nakamura but he's right back with the kicks. The sliding German suplex is blocked though and Reed kicks him in the face. A legsweep on the apron takes Reed down though and there's the running knee to the face.

We take a break and come back with Reed running him over again for two and there's a backsplash to crush Nakamura again. Back up and Reed misses a charge, allowing Nakamura to hit the running knee. Reed is back with a powerslam but the Tsunami misses. Nakamura knocks him to the apron and knees him down, followed by Kinshasa for the pin back inside at 9:48.

Rating: B-. This was a hard hitting match with Nakamura striking away for all he was worth to slay the monster. I'm rather surprised that Reed, who has been presented as a beast in recent weeks, lost to Nakamura, who has been around to put people over more than anything else. Good match here, with quite the surprise result.

Judgment Day is proud of Rhea Ripley for winning at Night Of

Champions, but they won't say which two of them will be in tonight's tag match (they're all in gear, including Rhea).

Memorial Day video.

AJ Styles/Seth Rollins vs. Judgment Day

It's Dominik Mysterio/Damian Priest for the team....or not as Finn Balor jumps Styles, with Dominik going to the floor. Rollins slips away and runs to the floor, where he puts his arm around Rhea for some rather nice annoyance. Back in and Priest elbows Rollins down and we hit the armbar. Rollins kicks him off and brings Styles in to clean house, including a running forearm in the corner.

Dominik breaks up the Phenomenal Forearm though and Priest knocks Styles over the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Styles trying to fight out of trouble but getting sent outside instead. Rollins gets into it with Ripley on the floor, leaving Styles to Pele his way out of trouble. The tag brings in Rollins, who small packages Balor for two but is quickly knocked down for the same.

Priest comes back in and is superplexed, only to come back with the Falcon Arrow. Balor misses the Coup de Grace though and gets superkicked, heaving Balor and Rollins down. Everything breaks down and Rollins and Balor go over the announcers' table. The Phenomenal Forearm doesn't work as Priest backs up (that's so simply brilliant) and the Razor's Edge plants Styles. Rollins cuts Priest off though and the diving tag brings in Rollins for the Stomp to finish Priest at 13:09.

Rating: B. Nice main event tag match here, even if nothing of note really happened. They had some time to work though and the stuff with Ripley getting involved and feeling almost on equal footing with the men was a nice touch. It wasn't a classic, but it was a rather good match and better than a lot of what you see on Raw on a regular basis.

Overall Rating: B-. They kept things moving here and got some stuff ready for Money in the Bank, but a lot of this felt like a bit of a holding pattern after Night Of Champions. McDonagh looked like a monster though and we have some new champions, so they did advance enough stuff. It's not a great show, but it's also good enough that you wouldn't have been miserable. I'll take that more often than not.

Results

Ricochet b. The Miz – Shooting star press

Indus Sher b. Javier Bernal/??? – Side slam/middle rope legdrop combination to ???

Imperium b. Alpha Academy – Imperial Bomb to Gable

Ronda Rousey/Shayna Baszler b. Raquel Rodriguez/Shotzi, Chelsea Green/Sonya Deville and Damage Ctrl – Cross armbreaker to Shotzi

Dolph Ziggler b. JD McDonagh via DQ when McDonagh sent him into the steps

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Bronson Reed – Kinshasa

AJ Styles/Seth Rollins b. Judgment Day – Stomp to Priest

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