

Daily News Update – April 11, 2023

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[NXT LVL Up – April 7, 2023](#)

[Monday Night Raw – April 10, 2023](#)

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/uh-oh-endeavor-coo-suggests-wwe-layoffs-coming/>

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Back? 43 Year Old Former World Champion Reportedly Returned To

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Monday Night Raw – April 10, 2023: There's A Hope

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 10, 2023

Location: Climate Pledge Arena, Seattle, Washington

Commentators: Corey Graves, Kevin Patrick

So this show just got a lot more interesting, as we had quite the out of nowhere show last week. That would have been the Vince McMahon version of Raw, but then Smackdown felt much more normal. You can call this one the rubber show I guess, but hopefully last week was just an anomaly. Let's get to it.

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

Commentary welcomes us to the show and says that there have been some travel issues so some wrestlers are late arriving.

Here is Rey Mysterio to talk about how cool it was to go into the Hall of Fame (pause for YOU DESERVE IT) and then wrestle at Wrestlemania. Unfortunately it was against his son and cue Dominik to interrupt. Dominik talks about how Rey has to make everything about himself, just like Bad Bunny, who cost Dominik the match at Wrestlemania.

We see the big angle with Bad Bunny last week, with Dominik calling it music to his ears when Bunny went through the table. Rey says he talked to Bunny last night and he's coming for revenge. Dominik doesn't buy it so Rey challenges him to a Wrestlemania rematch. That's a no, but Dominik knows someone who will.

Rey Mysterio vs. Finn Balor

Dominik is here too as Finn takes Rey into the corner to start. Rey fights out and snaps off a headscissors but Balor stomps him down against the ropes. Balor chokes on the ropes a bit as they're certainly in a slow pace to start. Some forearms to the neck set up a chinlock but Rey is right back up. A kick to the face sends Balor outside where the sliding splash can connect as we take a break.

Back with Rey hitting the springboard spinning crossbody for two but the 619 is broken up. Rey takes him up top for a super hurricanrana and a near fall. Now the 619 can connect but the frog splash only hits knees. Cue Dominik with the chain but Rey knocks him down, setting up the dive to take them both out. The second chain shot works on the way back in though and the Coup de Grace to the out cold Rey finishes at 14:12.

Rating: B-. This was a way to keep the Rey vs. Dominik stuff going as the likely tag match at Backlash looms. These two can still go in the ring and have a good match with just about anyone so there was no way this couldn't work. The ending even played into things perfectly and Rey is protected in the loss.

Earlier today Maxxine Dupri wasn't happy with how Otis was

dressed but we find Lita down. Raquel Rodriguez and Liv Morgan are concerned but Trish Stratus and Bayley come in to accuse them of doing it.

We look back at the Cody Rhodes/Brock Lesnar ordeal last week.

Becky Lynch says Lita is at a local medical facility but Trish Stratus will be teaming with her to defend the titles right now.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Liv Morgan/Raquel Rodriguez vs. Becky Lynch/Trish Stratus

Stratus (substituting for Lita) and Lynch are defending. Rodriguez throws Lynch into the corner to start and it's Morgan coming in for a running shoulder in the corner. Becky fights back and takes over on the arm, allowing the tag to Trish. Liv's Matrix is broken up (with Trish getting a laugh) and Becky drops the top rope leg for two as we take a break. Back with Liv fighting out of a chinlock until a double hair takedown means a double knockdown.

Rodriguez comes in to clothesline the also legal Becky, setting up the spinning Vader Bomb for two. Everything breaks down and Becky hits a missile dropkick for two. Rodriguez is sat on top but blocks a double superplex. Instead Trish hurricanranas her down for two but Rodriguez is back to assist Liv with a tornado DDT.

Everyone goes to the corner for the Tower of Doom and they're all down again. Back up and Rodriguez seems to accidentally slam Becky out of the corner onto Liv for two. Oblivion is countered into the Manhandle Slam but Rodriguez makes the save. Trish comes back in but misses the Chick Kick, allowing Liv to roll her up for the pin and the titles at 15:28.

Rating: B. They were working here and the titles changing hands clean (as clean as you can have with a substitute partner) is a good way to make Rodriguez and Morgan look

better. The action did well here and now we can move on to the who jumped Lita story, which probably has quite the details. For now though, the titles are off Lita/Lynch, who never felt like long term champions anyway.

Post match Becky is upset but holds Trish's arm up, only to have Trish lay her out. They weren't really hiding that and it's still the way to go.

Paul Heyman mocks a question about Brock Lesnar attacking Cody Rhodes last week and says Kevin Owens has a problem tonight. Owens has to face Solo Sikoa but Sami Zayn and Matt Riddle aren't here tonight. Heyman doesn't buy the travel problems, because they must be scared of Sikoa. Who would take advantage of Owens be on his own? We the ones.

Trish Stratus has nothing to say.

We look back at HHH announcing the Draft.

Damage Ctrl is in the back with Bayley trying to get the team staying together in the Draft. Instead of Iyo Sky and Dakota Kai getting a Women's Tag Team Title match, Bayley has gotten into a #1 contenders match. That's not cool with Sky, who goes to talk to Adam Pearce again. Tensions seem present.

Bobby Lashley vs. Bronson Reed

Reed knocks him into the corner to start but walks into a Downward Spiral. Back up and Reed lifts him to the apron where neither can get the better of things. Lashley is knocked to the floor and Reed shoulders him down as we take a break. Back with....a split screen clip from the new movie Renfield. We go full screen again to see Lashley sending him into the corner for a running shoulder to the ribs.

A swinging neckbreaker drops Reed again and there's a suplex to show off Lashley's power. The Hurt Lock can't go on so Reed drops back onto him for the break. Lashley is up before the

Tsunami so Reed hits a kind of Thesz press instead. Back up and Lashley grabs the spinebuster but still can't get the Hurt Lock. They fight to the floor and it's a double countout at 10:43.

Rating: B. I always appreciate a match where they don't bother trying to do anything but what they should be doing. Reed and Lashley are two bulls who are going to be able to hit each other really hard and do some cool looking power stuff. That is exactly what we got here and they even kept both of them from taking a loss. Hard hitting match here and I could go for the rematch when they get to do it again.

Post match referees and agents have to break them up.

Here is a banged up Cody Rhodes for a chat. Cody says he usually has one thing to talk about (Seth Rollins, his injury, the Royal Rumble, completing the story) but after last week, things are a little more complicated. He lost at Wrestlemania and there is no one to blame but him. Cody lost to the champion Roman Reigns, which has people giving him some thoughts about what happened. One thing came from Paul Heyman, saying Cody had to earn another shot. Cody has gone from Dashing to Stardust to the EVP to the leader of the pack so there is no earning it because he IS it.

Then you have another factor though and that is Brock Lesnar. The question is why Brock did what he did. Cody heard that Brock was upset about his spot on the Wrestlemania card, but Cody thinks that it was uncertainty about what Cody meant for Brock's future. We hear about Lesnar's accolades and yes, Cody is scared of him....but he still wants a fight. Cody wants Lesnar to look in the mirror and see a victim and he'll fight him anywhere. Say at (Wrestlemania) Backlash? Good stuff here as Cody talked about what happened and still looked to the future.

Usos vs. Alpha Academy

Otis jiggles away from Jey's waistlock and then easily blocks a sunset flip. Gable armbars Jimmy's arm over the top and a top rope clotheslines gives Gable two. Jimmy gets taken down and slapped in the back of the head as the Usos are way off to start. A quick Demolition Decapitator hits Gable though and Otis is knocked outside as we take a break.

Back with Gable trying to get over for a tag but there is no Otis. Jimmy chokes on the rope but charges into an exploder suplex. It's back to Otis for the Caterpillar but Jey makes the save. Jey sends Otis outside but the suicide dive is blocked. Jimmy's isn't blocked though and it's a double superkick to send Otis over the announcers' table. Gable moonsaults down onto both Usos though and it's a top rope headbutt for two back inside. The ankle lock is blocked but the Usos get in a blind tag and hit the double superkick. The 1D finishes Gable at 13:02.

Rating: B. Heck of a match here as the Usos sold the idea that they were in serious danger. Alpha Academy are goofs most of the time but they are former champions so this isn't the biggest stretch. I got into this one and there was even a chance of the big upset. This worked very well and I could go for more of this version of the Academy.

Piper Niven vs. Michin vs. Iyo Sky

The winner gets a shot at Bianca Belair's Raw Women's Title. Niven shoves Sky down to start but a double team sends Niven outside. Michin hits a suicide dive but Sky moonsaults onto both of them as we take a break. Back with Niven getting double teamed, including an upside down choke so Michin can hit a dropkick. Sky turns on Michin and takes her down as well, setting up the springboard missile dropkick to Niven. Michin drops Sky and Niven drops the big elbow. A Code Red gives Michin two on Niven but Sky moonsaults in for the pin at 8:15.

Rating: C+. They kept the pace going here and all three got in some stuff. Michin looked better than she has in a long time and Niven was playing the wrecking ball role. Sky winning fits the story best as Damage Ctrl's problems just might grow despite her success. Now can we have Niven get a win somewhere?

Kevin Owens knows he isn't smart to face Solo Sikoa on his own tonight but that's what he has done for his entire career.

Kevin Owens vs. Solo Sikoa

The Usos are here too and Owens has a bad leg, which is exactly where Sikoa starts. The stomps to the leg have Owens in trouble and he is sent outside. A superkick drops Jey and Owens sends Sikoa into the steps, only to have the bad leg taken out again. There's the running Umaga Attack in the corner and we take a break.

Back with Sikoa still on the leg but Owens gets in some shots of his own. The leg gives out again though and Sikoa superkicks him for two. Owens drops him again and goes up for the frog splash, which bangs up the knee even more. The Stunner is blocked and a Samoan drop gives Sikoa two.

Owens catches him on top for some headbutts but the knee gives out again. Instead Owens slams him off the top and hits the Swanton (that's a stretch on the bad leg) for two. The Pop Up Powerbomb connects but the knee gives out, allowing Sikoa to block the Stunner. Jey gets in a cheap shot superkick and it's the Samoan Spike to give Sikoa the pin at 13:25.

Rating: B-. Good brawl here, with Owens selling the leg (mostly) throughout. They were playing into the idea of Sikoa having the numbers advantage so Owens losing here isn't some horrible defeat. This version of Owens is always going to fight and he was trying as much as he could here, with the fans behind him all the way.

Post match the beatdown stays on but here are Sami Zayn and Matt Riddle for the very last second save. The Usos and Sikoa are beaten up and sent to the floor to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. This was great. It was a night full of wrestling as the wrestlers who did make the show and there was nothing close to a bad match. I had a great time with the wrestling we got and they kept some stories advancing well enough. Cody Rhodes got in a good, long form promo and set up what was a fairly obvious match with Brock Lesnar at Backlash. There wasn't a bad thing on this show and to keep things going so well for three hours, it was a smash hit.

Results

Finn Balor b. Rey Mysterio – Coup de Grace

Liv Morgan/Raquel Rodriguez b. Trish Stratus/Becky Lynch – Rollup to Stratus

Bobby Lashley vs. Bronson Reed went to a double countout

Usos b. Alpha Academy – 1D to Gable

Iyo Sky b. Piper Niven and Michin – Moonsault to Niven

Solo Sikoa b. Kevin Owens – Samoan Spike

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NXT LVL Up – April 7, 2023: I Guess That Helps

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Wrestlemania Weekend and the NXT double taping, meaning it is time to get back to a regular edition of this show. That means three matches instead of two and with some LVL Up names being announced for NXT proper, we could be in for some fresh faces around here. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Bushwhacker Butch.

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Boa

Oh yay, Boa is back. Boa kicks him down to start but gets pulled into an armbar. Back up and Chen hits a dropkick but Boa kicks him in the face. Ava comes out to watch and then leaves as Boa suplexes him into a chinlock. Back up and Chen reverses a suplex into one of his own before hitting a pump kick. The double chop finishes Boa at 5:07.

Rating: C-. Yep, that was a Dante Chen match, as he is a generic guy who has nothing to set him apart (aside from his ability to beat young up and comers). Boa continues to be someone who has nothing that makes him stand out and I'm almost scared to imagine either of these two being presented as a big deal. They're not bad by any means, but they're

really basic and that makes for a dull match.

Oro Mensah is ready for the monster that is Joe Gacy.

Sol Ruca/Dani Palmer vs. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson

Ruca and Legend start things off with Ruca working on the arm and it's off to Palmer, who gets launched at Legend for two. Jackson comes in and gets headscissored down, only to come back with an Edge-0-Matic for two of her own. Palmer manages a rollup before flipping over for the hot tag to Ruca. Everything breaks down and the Sol Snatcher finishes Jackson at 4:49.

Rating: C. That Sol Snatcher is just awesome no matter what else happens in a match and it is going to get a reaction no matter what. The key here was that it came out of nowhere and made Ruca look like a killer. Palmer continues to have potential and Legend is still coming along now that she isn't on TV every week and driving people crazy.

Oro Mensah vs. Joe Gacy

The rest of Schism is here too. Mensah cranks on a headlock to start and they fight in the corner until Mensah kicks him out. A rather spinny anklescissors sends Gacy outside but they switch places, allowing Gacy to kick him down. Back in and Gacy cranks on the neck and yells a lot. A knee to the face and scoop brainbuster drop Mensah, setting up the chinlock. Mensah fights up and starts the comeback, including a springboard kick to the face for two. A springboard moonsault misses for Mensah though and Gacy finishes with the Upside Down at 5:08.

Rating: C. If Schism is only getting five minutes in a week, things are looking up. I don't know if they're downgrading the team a bit or if this was just a cameo, but keeping them away from the main NXT for a bit is nice to see. Mensah continues to be little more than a jobber to the stars but at least he

did his thing well enough here.

Overall Rating: C. It was nice to have some fresh faces around here, but there isn't much more to the show than that. Gacy being around gave the show its star power for the week and since he didn't talk, we'll call it a positive. You never know what you're getting with this show, though at least there are some people heading to the main NXT to give these matches a bit more importance.

Results

Dante Chen b. Boa – Double chop

Sol Ruca/Dani Palmer b. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson – Sol Snatcher to Jackson

Joe Gacy b. Oro Mensah – Upside Down

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Daily News Update – April 9,

2023 (Happy Easter!)

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[Battle Of The Belts VI](#)

[ECW On Sci Fi – April 15, 2008](#)

Don't Cross Him: Reason For Brock Lesnar Attacking Cody Rhodes Revealed.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/dont-cross-reason-brock-lesnar-attacking-cody-rhodes-revealed/>

Go Your Own Way? Vince McMahon Reportedly Considering Splitting WWE Stable.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/go-way-vince-mcmahon-reportedly-considering-splitting-wwe-stable/>

Triple Threat: Update On Drew McIntyre's WWE Status, Multiple Issues Reported.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/triple-threat-update-drew-mcintyres-wwe-status-multiple-issues-reported/>

WATCH: Austin Theory Has To Deal With An Imitation John Cena In SmackDown Dark Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-austin-theory-deal-imitation-john-cena-smackdown-dark-match/>

Maybe Later: Details On WWE's Lack Of Hiring New Wrestlers.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/maybe-later-details-wwe-lack-hiring-new-wrestlers/>

He Has Plans: Cody Rhodes Opens Up After Rough WWE Week, Talks Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/plans-cody-rhodes-opens-rough-wwe-week-talks-future/>

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Smackdown – April 18, 2008: The End Of The Vacation

Smackdown

Date: April 18, 2008

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Attendance: 17,422

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jonathan Coachman

We'll finish up the England excursion here with the blue guys. These shows can be a cross between a bunch of stuff mainly for the live fans and a show that actually matters so we could be in for either here. Backlash is almost here though and Edge vs. Undertaker II is down for the main event so let's get to it.

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

Here is Chris Jericho for the Highlight Reel to get things going. Jericho reminds us that he is the guest referee for the Backlash match between Shawn Michaels and his guest this week, Batista. Cue Batista, with Jericho saying he thinks Shawn

relished retiring Ric Flair and all of his lies over the years. We look at a clip from Raw where Jericho made such accusations, earning himself Sweet Chin Music.

Back live, Jericho says that kick proved him correct and for that, Jericho says you're welcome to Batista. That's not what Batista was looking for because he didn't need Jericho to speak for him. Batista says this is between himself and Shawn so Jericho has nothing to do with this. Jericho offers some analysis: Batista is upset at Shawn for retiring Ric Flair because he wanted to do it himself. We get a quick fan pole about Jericho's claims but Batista takes him out with the Batista Bomb.

Tommy Dreamer vs. MVP

Non-title and Matt Hardy is on commentary. Dreamer slugs away to start and grabs an armbar, which doesn't last long. MVP gets in a shoulder to the ribs before sending him throat first into the bottom rope. Some more knockdowns set up Ballin for two but Dreamer gets a boot up in the corner. The comeback is on including a neckbreaker to give Dreamer two. The DDT gets the same but MVP sends him shoulder first into the post. A running boot in the corner finishes Dreamer off.

Rating: C. Not quite a squash here but it was there to have MVP get a quick win over someone the fans care about. Dreamer got in a few shots here and there but it was done in about five minutes, as it should be. Now they just need to get to MVP vs. Hardy, which is more than a bit overdue.

Hornswoggle vs. Matt Striker

This is revenge for Hornswoggle helping inlay beat Striker last week. Before the match, Striker goes on a rant about how unfair this is when he is far too smart. Hold on because Hornswoggle, with Finlay, starts with some juggling before throwing the tennis balls at Striker. Then it's some squirt guns, followed by some bigger water guns. Striker finally gets

smart by going after Finlay on the floor before finally taking Hornswoggle down and hammering away. The Shillelagh is picked up but the referee takes it away, allowing Finlay to get in his own shot to Striker's head. The Tadpole Splash finishes for Hornswoggle.

Rating: C. It's kind of hard to get annoyed at anyone, including Hornswoggle, beating up a goof like Striker. The only reason he is around is to get beaten up like this and it being all goofy made it better. They didn't waste a ton of time on this and it wasn't meant to be anything more than a quick joke.

Big Show didn't care for Great Khali giving him a goat and a chicken last week. Tonight he has Mark Henry, which is going to be a big showdown.

Chavo Guerrero vs. Jamie Noble

Bam Neely is here with Chavo. Noble takes him down by the leg to start but Chavo is back up with a running shoulder. Chavo's headlock on the mat doesn't last long as they trade rollups for two each until the armbar goes on. Back up and Noble grabs a northern lights suplex for two but Chavo knocks him down and Eddie dances. Noble manages a quickly broken up Sharpshooter attempt so Chavo necksnaps him across the top. The frog splash finishes Noble off.

Rating: C-. Talented people don't always make for the most interesting matches as this was a good bit of chinlocking before Chavo finished him off. Chavo beating up a former Cruiserweight Champion and having an impressive looking bodyguard isn't going to make him all that much more interesting. I'm sure he'll still be near the top of ECW for the time being though because of course he will be, but it's not quite working.

Mark Henry vs. Big Show

They shove each other away from a lockup to start until Henry knocks him away. The bearhug goes on to keep Show in place until a shove and superkick get Show out of trouble. There's a chokeslam to Henry but cue Great Khali to come out and go after Show for the DQ.

Rating: D+. This didn't have the time to go anywhere but it was mainly spent in a bearhug with some shoving included. The idea of getting Show ready for Khali was fine but the match was pretty lame on the way there. Then again the idea of Show vs. Khali in a featured match could be rough, even if it wouldn't be much bigger than this.

Post match the brawl is on with Khali hitting a chokebomb (with Show pretty clearly doing all of the work).

Backlash rundown.

Video on Batista vs. Undertaker before tonight's main event.

Victoria vs. Cherry

Natalya and Michelle McCool are here too. Victoria powers her down into the corner to start and then hits a clothesline to cut off the comeback. Cherry grabs a rollup out of the corner for two but Victoria slaps on a reverse chinlock. Victoria keeps up the beating and trash talking but Victoria makes the mistake of yelling at Michelle. In a totally original ending, the distraction lets Cherry grab a rollup for the pin.

Rating: D. So many of these women's matches are just dreadful as there's nothing to them since they rarely get any time and often involve someone who really can't do anything in the ring. It also doesn't help that there's nothing on the line, so why should I get invested here? Cherry doesn't wrestle often, but when your big weapon is a rollup, what are you supposed to do?

Vladimir Kozlov vs. Leroy Kincaid

Kincaid is in pretty good shape. Kozlov works on the arm to start and shoves him away before hitting a headbutt to the chest. An overhead belly to belly sets up the reverse DDT to give Kozlov the easy win.

Video on Edge vs. Undertaker.

Edge and the Edgeheads have front row tickets.

Batista vs. Undertaker

Non-title. Undertaker takes him into the corner to start and gets two off a clothesline. Batista hits the corner shoulders and elbows Undertaker in the face for two of his own. The running DDT drops Batista again and Undertaker stomps away in the corner. Old School is broken up and it's a double clothesline to leave them both down. We take a break and come back with Undertaker choking on the ropes and staying on the arm.

Old School is blocked again and a superplex brings Undertaker back down for one. Undertaker is right back on the arm and now Old School connects. They go outside with Batista being dropped onto the barricade for two but he's right back with the spear. That bangs up the arm though and a delayed cover only gets two. Batista dumps him to the floor and they brawl at ringside until it's a double countout.

Rating: B-. This was a way to get the stars in the ring to continue one of the biggest feuds of the last year or so. The ending was a good way to protect both of them before their major pay per view matches but even the two of them in a match like this feels like something special. There aren't many options that can make something that work but they got the right one here.

Post match the brawl stays on with Edge and the Edgeheads being drawn in so they can get beaten up too. Edge escapes so here is Vickie Guerrero (with an EXCUSE ME) to say that Edge

and the Edgeheads are members of the audience so lawsuits could be filed. No worry though, because their justice will come when it's Undertaker vs. Batista for the title next week, with the winner facing Edge at Backlash.

Overall Rating: C. Much like this week's ECW, there wasn't much to be seen here other than one match. These England shows tend to be more like that but the spectacle does often work. Things will be back to normal next week as Backlash gets closer and we head back stateside, but for now it's one match worth seeing and little else.

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ECW On Sci Fi – April 15, 2008: The Spectacle Show

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: April 15, 2008

Location: 02 Arena, London, England

Attendance: 17,422

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz, Mike Adamle

We're over in England this week as the European tour is on. In this case, we have a special main event as the Brothers of Destruction are here. That alone should be enough to carry the show, as there is little to care about other than one or two stars. Maybe they have something else to help it out, because the show needs it. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a preview of the show, which in this case means Undertaker/Kane vs. Miz/John Morrison. Well that ups the star power.

Opening sequence.

Tazz tells us that this is Joey Styles' last night on the show as he is going on to head up WWE.com. We meet the new play by play announcer: Mike Adamle. Oh boy.

CM Punk/Kofi Kingston/Jimmy Wang Yang/Shannon Moore vs. Elijah Burke/Deuce N Domino/Shelton Benjamin

Well it's different. Domino and Punk start things off with Punk taking over. Moore comes in with a sunset flip and starts on the arm, as the good guys get to take their turns. Yang hits a dropkick and lands on Domino for two before it's back to Punk. Benjamin comes in and gets kicked in the face as everything breaks down on the floor.

We take a break and come back with Burke missing an elbow to Punk, allowing Kofi to come in for an armbar. The rapid fire tags continue as it's off to Moore to stay on the arm. Burke comes in and uppercuts Yang to take over, setting up the running crotch attack to the back of the head. Benjamin and Deuce put on a chinlock each before Domino drops a leg. A

backdrop gets Yang out of trouble though and the hot tag brings in Kingston to clean house. Everything breaks down and Trouble In Paradise finishes Deuce (who had tagged in) for the win.

Rating: C+. This match got some time and picked up steam as it kept going. What mattered here was keeping Kingston strong as ECW is certainly protecting him. With Punk pretty clearly not long for the minor show, fresh talent is going to be needed. Kingston is getting better in his spot so maybe he could do some good in the future.

We look back at Chavo Guerrero and his lackeys beating up Kane, including his new bald enforcer.

Kane promises revenge on Chavo, but tonight it's about the Brothers of Destruction.

And now, a Diva Dance Off, featuring Layla, Maryse, Eve, Lena Yada and Kelly Kelly. Tazz, the emcee, demonstrates a bit of dancing (or kind of jiggling in his case) before everyone gets to go. Shockingly Layla and Eve, the former professional dancers, blow everyone else away but Kelly, the only one to remove clothing, wins. Post contest, Kelly and Tazz dance together in a funny moment.

Tommy Dreamer vs. Mike Knox

Colin Delaney is here with Dreamer. Hold on though as here is Armando Estrada to change things up.

Colin Delaney vs. Mike Knox

Dreamer is sent to the back. Total destruction with Knox hitting a swinging Downward Spiral for the pin in about a minute.

Miz and John Morrison say they're a real team while Undertaker and Kane are always fighting each other. Morrison is even willing to let Miz start the match!

Miz/John Morrison vs. Kane/Undertaker

Non-title. Kane shoulders Miz down to start and sends him shoulder first into the corner. Undertaker comes in to punch the shoulder, setting up Old School. Morrison breaks up the apron clothesline with a legdrop though and we take a break. Back with Morrison striking away at Undertaker in the corner, only to have Undertaker show him how it's done.

Morrison gets struck in the face a few times, allowing Kane to come in with a side slam to Miz. A Morrison distraction lets Miz get in a chop block though and Morrison comes in to crank on the knee. Miz hammers away until an uppercut and big boot give Kane a breather. That's enough for Undertaker to come in and really take over, including Snake Eyes into the big boot. Double chokeslams set up the Tombstone to finish Morrison.

Rating: C. This is a good example of "it was what it was" as Kane and Undertaker ended up decimating the champs in the end. Miz and Morrison got in a bit of offense on Kane but there is no way to buy this working when things evened up. It's also no shame to lose to a pair of monsters with success of their own like Undertaker and Kane, so Miz and Morrison could have come out looking worse.

The Brothers posing with their titles is a great visual to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. Pretty skippable show, but then again it felt like it was more for the live fans than anything else. ECW really needs to develop some new names and right now it seems to be Kane and Kofi Kingston leading the charge. Kane is fine, but Kofi has a long way to go but the potential is there. This week was more or less a spectacle though and it was an easy enough way to burn through about forty five minutes.

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Battle Of The Belts VI: They Still Don't Got It

Battle Of The Belts VI

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Ryan Center, Kingston, Rhode Island

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

It's time for another of these specials, which as you might have guessed, are all about titles. These do not tend to feature many title changes and this edition's card was announced with about ten minutes to go in this week's Dynamite. This could go in a variety of ways but there are some interesting matches on the show. Let's get to it.

International Title: Orange Cassidy vs. Dralistico

Cassidy, with the Best Friends, is defending, and runs into Julia Hart, who was still at ringside after the main event of Rampage. Dralistico, with La Faccion Ingobernable, bails to

the floor to start before throwing some of his gear at Cassidy. They go with some grappling and Cassidy gets taken down, leaving him glancing up at Dralistico. A hurricanrana sends Cassidy outside, where the seconds get into a staredown.

Back in and Cassidy fires off some lazy chops before taking him by the hand and walking the ropes. Instead of hitting him, Cassidy puts a hand in the pocket and casually jumps down. A dropkick sends Dralistico to the floor and poses, just to rub it in a bit. Jose the Assistant crotches Cassidy on top though, leaving Dralistico to hit a big dive to break up the brawl on the floor.

Everyone else fights up the ramp and we take a break. Back with Cassidy hitting a Michinoku Driver for two and the tornado DDT for the same. Dralistico Codebreakers him for two and they both go to the top to slug it out. They go back to the mat with Dralistico grabbing a Fujiwara armbar to send Cassidy over to the rope. A Canadian Destroyer into a spinning kick to the head gives Dralistico two more. Cassidy is sent outside and punches Jose the Assistant down. Back in and Dralistico's spinning knee to the face is countered into a small package for two. Cassidy hits the Orange Punch to retain at 10:49.

Rating: C. Not a bad match here, but there was almost no drama about the idea of Dralistico winning the title. It also didn't exactly feel special when Cassidy has been on TV so often lately as it isn't a special defense just the next one. Cassidy is being built up for a major match though as the person who beats him is going to feel like a big deal.

Post match Cassidy is badly favoring his hand, which was already banged up after punching Buddy Matthews' mast last week. The House of Black pops up on screen and says that was impressive before Buddy Matthews issues the challenge for the title match.

We look back at Dynamite.

Mark Briscoe says he has a lot left and is looking forward to the Lucha Bros' match tonight. Jay Lethal comes in to ask how long they've known each other. Jay Lethal comes in to say everyone is still proud of Mark and they've known each other for over twenty years. Lethal offers to have them work together and they shake hands. Jeff Jarrett/Satnam Singh and Sonjay Dutt come in but Mark isn't sure about this.

TBS Title: Jade Cargill vs. Billie Starkz

Starkz is challenging and doesn't like Jade not being impressed. Jade talks trash and gets slapped in the face, earning a ram into the corner. A backbreaker keeps Starkz in trouble and Jade spansks her, only to get caught in a Backstabber. Starkz's sunset flip is broken and Jade sends her outside as we take a break.

Back with Jade dropping her again but Jaded is countered into a hurricanrana. Jade is sent outside and a running dropkick to the back connects. Back in and a Downward Spiral drops Jade but she gets her knees up to block a Swanton. The pump kick sets up Jaded to retain the title at 8:35.

Rating: C+. Starkz was trying here but again, there was no reason to believe that she was going to win the title. At the end of the day, Jade's title reign has been built up as such a big deal that it is going to take something special to beat her. Starkz is talented, but she isn't going to come here and be the big streak breaker.

Post match Taya Valkyrie comes out and takes Jade down. Road To Valhalla is blocked though and Jade bails.

Brandon Cutler and Michael Nakazawa are the only ones left of the Elite right now but they're going to stand up to the bullies in the Blackpool Combat Club.

The Lucha Bros and QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs are ready for a fight.

Ring Of Honor Tag Team Titles: Lucha Bros vs. QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs

The Lucha Bros are defending. Penta does his pose at Marshall to start and they trade a few flips until both miss their finishers. Marshall gets knocked into the corner so it's Hobbs coming in to go nose to nose with Penta. Hobbs knocks Marshall to the floor by mistake and everything breaks down, only to have Hobbs run Penta over. Fenix gets pulled out of the air and a slam plants Fenix hard. Penta tries to chop both of them down so it's a double shoulder to drop him instead.

We take a break and come back with Penta still in trouble but managing a Sling Blade on Marshall. The Backstabber out of the corner allowing the tag off to Fenix as everything breaks down. The wheelbarrow splash gets two on Marshall and a top rope splash is good for the same with Hobbs making the save. An exchange of kicks to the head leaves everyone staggered so Hobbs runs Fenix over.

Marshall hits his cutter but Fenix takes him down again to leave everyone down again. Back in and Marshall gets kicked down again, followed by a top rope splash for two more. Hobbs runs both Bros over but Penta is back up, drawing in the rest of the QTV crew. Aaron Solo gets some of Harley Cameron's spray into Fenix's eyes for two. Penta gets powerbombed onto the apron but Fenix reverses Marshall's suplex into a hurricanrana for the pin to retain the titles at 14:44.

Rating: B-. The Bros are awesome, Hobbs was treated like a monster and Marshall is still a good hand. Everything they did in the ring was good enough, but again the lack of drama hurt this a bit. The inclusion of Marshall brings everything down and there is no real way around that. Hobbs defending his own title would have been more interesting/useful, at Marshall

just isn't going to be seen as a potential champion.

Overall Rating: C+. Ever since this show began, it has felt like something AEW has to do rather than wants to do and that was the case again there. The main event is good enough but it's nothing you wouldn't see topped on any given Dynamite. None of the titles felt like they were in jeopardy as we will now have gone over a year since the last time a title changed hands at one of these shows. It's nothing you'll be mad at yourself for watching, but there's no reason to watch this show.

Results

Orange Cassidy b. Dralistico – Orange Punch

Jade Cargill b. Billie Starkz – Jaded

Lucha Bros b. QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs – Hurricanrana to Marshall

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[Rampage – April 7, 2023](#)

Old School: Big Reason Why This Week's Monday Night Raw Was So Different.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/old-school-big-reason-we-eks-monday-night-raw-different/>

That's Different: WWE Scrapped New Tournament Scheduled To Start On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-different-wwe-scrapped-new-tournament-scheduled-start-monday-night-raw/>

Gone Girl: Former Champion Taking Hiatus From WWE Following Title Loss.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/gone-girl-former-champion-taking-hiatus-wwe-following-title-loss/>

Not Too Bad: WrestleMania 39 SMASHES Several WWE Records.

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WATCH: Former NXT Champion Turns Evil In Surprise Twist.

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It Didn't Go Well: WWE Reportedly Unhappy With Ric Flair Over Hall Of Fame Speech.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/didnt-go-well-ww-e-reportedly-unhappy-ric-flair/>

He's Here: Details On Vince McMahon At Monday Night Raw, Morale Reportedly "Felt Nuked".

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-details-vince-mcmahon-monday-night-raw-morale-reportedly-felt-nuked/>

Nope: Former WWE World Champion On Wrestling Again: "No, No".

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nope-former-ww-e-world-champion-wrestling-no-no/>

Later? WWE Stars Reportedly "Considering Options" If Vince McMahon Continues Running Television.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/later-ww-e-stars-reportedly-considering-options-vince-mcmahon-continues-running-television/>

Thieves! WWE Allegedly Confiscates Sign Supporting Rarely Used Wrestler.

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Nope: Former World Champion Not Likely Signing With WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nope-former-world-champion-not-likely-signing-with-ww-e/>

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Didn't Make The Cut: WWE Reportedly Scrapped WrestleMania Segment For Popular Star.

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He's In: AEW Confirms Signing Of Former World Champion.

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It's Over! Huge Title Change Takes Place On AEW Dynamite.

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Over There: AEW Makes Huge Announcement About First Time Ever Event.

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They're Back: Two AEW Stars Make Surprise Return During Dynamite.

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Might Want To Fix That: AEW Star And Reigning Champion Currently Working Without Contract.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/might-want-fix-aew-star-reigning-champion-currently-working-without-contract/>

Popular Return: Former Champion Expected To Make WWE Return Soon.

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He's In: 25 Year WWE Veteran Officially Jumps To AEW.

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She's Out For A Bit: WWE Star Reveals She Is Hospitalized With Multiple Issues.

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You Don't Say: Interesting Details On Cody Rhodes vs. Brock Lesnar Story.

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New Home: Rhea Ripley Reveals Change In Her WWE Status.

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Up Next: New WWE Series Coming, John Cena Set For Appearances.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-new-wwe-series-coming-john-cena-set-appearances/>

He's Done: Miz Goes On Hilarious Rant After WrestleMania Troubles.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-done-miz-goes-hilarious-rant-wrestlemania-troubles/>

He Doesn't Do Sequels: Update On Roman Reigns' Status For Upcoming WWE Event.

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It's Back: Triple H Announces Return Of The WWE Draft, Promises It Will Be Bigger Than Ever.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/back-wwe-bringing-back-major-event-weeks/>

OUCH: WWE Star Reveals Nasty Injury About Three Weeks Before Major WrestleMania Match.

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One More Run: AEW Star Reportedly Interested In WWE Return For Big Reunion.

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Out For A Bit: WWE Star Misses This Week's SmackDown Due To Health Illness.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/bit-wwe-star-misses-weeks-smackdown-due-health-illness/>

He's #1: Cody Rhodes Get Some Very Good News From WrestleMania Weekend.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-1-cody-rhodes-get-good-news-wrestlemania-weekend/>

RK-No: Update On Randy Orton's Health Status (And It's Not Good).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rk-no-update-randy-ortons-health-status-not-good/>

That's Worth A Ticket: AEW's Darby Allin Hit By Car In New York City.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-worth-ticket-aews-darby-allin-hit-car-new-york-city/>

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Rampage – April 7, 2023: The Long Week

Rampage

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Ryan Center, Kingston, Rhode Island

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross

We're here for the first half of a double shot as it's a live Rampage and Battle of the Belts back to back. That should make for a packed night and we'll start here, including Hook vs. Ethan Page II, again for the FTW Title. Other than that, it's Rampage so expect quite the variety tonight. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

FTW Title: Hook vs. Ethan Page

Hook is defending and this is FTW Rules, meaning anything goes and falls count anywhere. Page isn't wasting time and knocks him off the apron but Hook fights back. A table is pulled out and Hook hammers away against the barricade. They fight into the crowd and through the fans and Page gets the better of things, only to have Hook pound away with forearms to the chest.

We take a break and come back with Page knocking Hook over the barricade but stopping to yell at someone. The distraction

lets Hook hit an exploder suplex and whip out a chair (to go with the table inside). That table isn't good enough though as Hook would rather suplex Page through a table at ringside.

Page breaks that up and powerslams him through the ringside table instead. The powerslam gives Page two and Hook is thrown inside for the first time. Page chairs him down but another swing hits the rope, sending the chair into his own head. The Twist of Fate onto a chair gives Hook two so Page tries to send him through another table. That takes too long though and Redrum retains the title at 9:14.

Rating: C-. I wasn't into this one as it was a bunch of brawling through the crowd and fighting on the floor. Hook can do better than this and I don't get the interest in slowly walking through the crowd for five minutes, a table spot and then Redrum. I'm not sure why we needed a rematch after Dynamite but this should wrap things up for good. It wasn't an awful match, but they didn't really do anything.

Post match Hook puts him through the table.

And now, QTV. After implying that Powerhouse Hobbs used Wardlow's stolen credit card to buy a car ("that huge sale this week"), QT Marshall is ready to win a title and mocks Dante Martin's injury.

Acclaimed/Jericho Appreciation Society vs. LSG/Bobby Orlando/The Infantry

Billy Gunn and Jake Hager are here too. Bowens strikes away at LSG to start and Scissor Me Timbers hits Orlando. That means a four way scissoring, but Acclaimed changes their mind and does it themselves. The Mic Drop finishes for Caster at 2:04.

Post match the Society jumps the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn.

Swerve Strickland talks about Trench and Parker Boudreaux being down and says that he's being involved in a merger. He's

joining forces with....you'll find out later tonight. Note that Swerve said of course he got 51% of the ownership. There's your second jab at/reference to WWE's merger/buyout and the second that isn't exactly funny. Maybe that's not what they're doing, but otherwise, why make that specific of a reference?

Darby Allin vs. Lee Moriarty

Big Bill is here with Moriarty, who gets rolled up for a quick two. That leaves Moriarty a little aghast so he takes Allin down with a test of strength. They head outside where Allin gets in a shot of his own and sends Moriarty into the barricade. Big Bill boots him down though and we take a break. Back with Allin dropkicking him into the corner but having to glare Bill down. That's enough for Moriarty to pull Allin off the top and get two off a European Clutch. Back up and Code Red drops Moriarty, setting up a dive onto Bill. The Coffin Drop gives Allin the pin at 9:46.

Rating: C+. AEW is setting up the Four Pillars match and they're doing it the old fashioned way: by having the people involved (or at least the challengers) win match after match. These guys are suddenly on rolls and want the World Title. Just keep it up on the way to Double Or Nothing and include some bigger names, and you have a hot main event.

Post match Allin goes to leave but here is Swerve Strickland to offer a handshake....and then Brian Cage jumps Allin, because Swerve has merged with the freaking Embassy.

We get a sitdown interview between Taya Valkyrie and Jade Cargill/Mark Sterling over ownership of Jaded/Road To Valhalla.

Video on Julia Hart vs. Julia Hart.

Anna Jay vs. Julia Hart

Anna jumps her to start and they fight to the floor, with Hart

whipping her into the barricade. Back in and Anna kicks Hart in the face and snaps her throat across the top rope to take over again. Hart gets whipped into the barricade and we take a break. Back with Hart hitting a standing moonsault for two on Anna but getting caught in the Queenslayer. That's broken up so Hart hits a top rope moonsault press. The Queenslayer goes on again but they fall out to the floor for a crash. Anna gets back in but Hart throws in a chair for a distraction, allowing Hart to spray the black mist. A small package gives Hart the pin at 9:43.

Rating: C. These two are certainly trying and you can see some improvements, but it still doesn't feel like the most natural match when either of them are in the ring. Both feel like they're going through a list of things they decided to do rather than flowing naturally and that doesn't help much. It was far from a bad match and they didn't mess up anything horribly, but there is a limit to what these two are capable of doing right now.

Post match Hart goes to leave and runs into Orange Cassidy on the way to the ring for the opener of Battle of the Belts.

Overall Rating: C. This wasn't much as the biggest story coming out of it was the JAS attacking the Acclaimed, which took place two days after the Acclaimed rapped about how stupid the team was. Other than that, the Embassy now has a story and Hook beat Ethan Page again. This show continues to feel like they just throw whatever doesn't make it onto Dynamite on there (or in some cases something very similar) and that doesn't make for the most interesting hour.

Results

Hook b. Ethan Page – Redrum

Acclaimed/Jericho Appreciation Society b. LSG/Bobby Orlando/The Infantry – Mic Drop to Orlando

Darby Allin b. Lee Moriarty – Coffin Drop

Julia Hart b. Anna Jay – Small package

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Smackdown – April 7, 2023: Pretty Good Has Never Looked So Great

Smackdown

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Moda Center, Portland, Oregon

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We're done with Wrestlemania and based on Raw, may be done with a way of life in WWE. The question now becomes if Raw was a one off or if it is the new normal. Triple H is apparently here for some kind of announcement and that could go in a variety of directions. Let's get to it.

Here is Wrestlemania ([Night One](#) and [Night Two](#)) if you need a recap.

We open with a long recap of Wrestlemania.

Imperium vs. Brawling Brutes

Butch starts fast and chases people off before handing it off to Holland to bring in the power on Kaiser. It's right back to Butch, who works on Vinci's finger and stomps on the arm. Kaiser shoves Butch off the middle rope into a suplex from Vinci (who catches him in the air in a scary power display) as we take a break.

Back with Butch fighting out of a chinlock and bringing Holland in to clean house. Imperium isn't having that and catches him with a triple boot in the corner. Gunther comes in to chop Holland down, setting up the running dropkick into the corner. A powerbomb gets two with Butch having to make the save. The Boston crab goes on but the crawl lets Holland get the tag to Sheamus. The ten forearms have Gunther in trouble and White Noise gets two. Vinci and Kaiser are back in with a high/low to Butch but Sheamus knees Vinci out of the air. The Brogue Kick finishes Vinci at 11:41.

Rating: B-. These guys work well together and there is nothing wrong with letting them beat on each other for awhile. It's nice to see Sheamus getting some momentum back after the loss at Wrestlemania and I can go for having all of the Brutes together again for a change. Good opener here and it's nice to see that on WWE TV again.

Long recap of the Cody Rhodes/Brock Lesnar saga from Raw.

Paul Heyman, with Solo Sikoa, says he will pass over a question about Lesnar and thank Roman Reigns for the amazing Wrestlemania. Jey Uso comes in to say he hasn't seen Jimmy Uso all night. Heyman says Jimmy isn't here, because Reigns wanted Jey to face Sami Zayn on his own tonight. Jey leaves, and Heyman tells Solo to solve the Sami Zayn problem tonight, or solve the Bloodline's problems tonight. Well that's ominous.

Ricochet vs. Ivar

Both partners have been banned from ringside but Valhalla is here with Ivar. Ricochet starts fast by sending Ivar outside, where Ivar crushes him against the apron. Back in and Ricochet flips out of a suplex and hits a running knee. Ivar knocks him down again and for some reason Ricochet tries a fireman's carry. That level of brilliance earns him a spinning kick to the face but Ricochet knocks him out of the corner. The shooting star press finishes Ivar off at 4:05.

Rating: C+. I can go with Ricochet fighting a monster and getting a nice boost out of it as a result. More Ricochet is a good thing and it would be great to see him being elevated again. I'm not sure what is next for any of the teams from the showcase match but at least Ricochet is getting a little momentum.

Kevin Owens is looking at the titles but insists that he is LEERING at them. Sami Zayn is happy to be here and Owens talks about how big Sami vs. Jey Uso is going to be tonight. They can put the Bloodline behind them but Sami thinks something about this feels off. He can't shake the feeling that he has to talk to Jey about...something. Everything Owens has said is true but Sami feels obligated to talk to him. Owens wants to know what Sami thinks is going to happen but knows he can't talk him out of this. Sami knows he's right but is going to do it anyway. I don't see this going well at all.

Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan vs. Natalya/Shotzi

Natalya and Shotzi send Rodriguez outside with Shotzi hitting a dive so hard that Rodriguez kind of belly to belly suplexes her. Back in and Shotzi hits a knee but a springboard hurricanrana is countered. It's off to Morgan, who trades rollups with Natalya to limited avail. A release German suplex into a discus clothesline drops Morgan and Shotzi is back in for an assisted Sliced Bread. Rodriguez breaks up a Hart

Attack and Oblivion finishes Shotzi at 2:50. This was very fast paced and gives Morgan and Rodriguez a bit of a boot on the way to their title match.

Madcap Moss and Xavier Woods are playing WWE2K23 when LA Knight comes in to complain about all the gaming. Why was Woods on Wrestlemania for video games and not him? Woods is tired of this and says he'll beat Knight again if he has to.

Here is HHH for a chat. After saying there is nothing like that kind of a reaction, HHH brags about Wrestlemania and all of the successes it has had. Now though, Wrestlemania is behind us and we look to the future. Are you ready? In just a few weeks, it is time for the WWE Draft. This year's will be bigger than ever with every single superstar eligible. When it is time, this year's Draft will truly change the game. Speaking of that, here is someone who is doing just that: Rhea Ripley (with the rest of the Judgment Day.

Ripley says that everything changed at Wrestlemania when she did the impossible. She's the star now and it is time to rise for Mami. Finn Balor talks about how Edge hurt him but he is still standing (PLEASE tell me that story isn't continuing). Dominik...has to pause for the fans booing him before talking about how he couldn't bring himself to really hurt his father at Wrestlemania. He can't stand Bad Bunny though and we see the big brawl with Bad Bunny on Monday. Damian Priest can forgive Bunny for what he did, but hopes Bunny can forgive Priest for what he had to do. Cue Rey Mysterio and the LWO as we're ready to go.

Rey Mysterio/Santos Escobar vs. Judgment Day

It's Dominik Mysterio/Damian Priest for the team here and Dominik tags out rather than face his dad to start. With Priest knocked down, Dominik comes in to hammer away and gets one off a suplex. Rey manages to flip out bring in Escobar to pick up the pace. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker drops Dominik and

stereo dives take the villains down.

We take a break and come back with Dominik grabbing a front facelock on Escobar. A backdrop gets Escobar out of trouble and it's Rey coming back in. Rey starts firing off some dropkicks but Rhea Ripley has to chase Zelina Vega. The 619 hits Dominik but Priest breaks up the Phantom Driver. South of Heaven finishes Escobar at 10:06.

Rating: C+. This was a fast paced match that you would expect from Escobar and company, but unfortunately there was no real way to end this other than Escobar getting pinned. Since you can more or less pencil in Rey/Bunny vs. Priest/Dominik at Backlash, how else could they have gone? For now, it's nice to see Priest getting a win as it doesn't happen very often.

Shinsuke Nakamura is back next week.

Sami Zayn comes up to Jey Uso and says it's fine if Jey doesn't want to talk. Zayn says it's the same as it has been for the last few months: everything Zayn has said would happen has happened. Jimmy Uso isn't here and Roman Reigns isn't here, while Solo Sikoa is looking like he is ready to drop the hammer. Now Sami will beat as much sense into Jey as he has to, but he'd rather not. Jey doesn't say anything but we hear some kind of a fracas. Kevin Owens has been attacked by Solo Sikoa, who has dropped an anvil case on Owens' leg.

Jey Uso vs. Sami Zayn

Before the match, Sami says Kevin Owens was right but he's about to show Uso that he isn't the only one with a problem. Jey shoulders him down to start but gets sent to the floor. Cue Solo Sikoa for a distraction as we take a break. Back with Sami hitting a superplex and hammering away. Sami gets superkicked out of the air but exploder suplexes Jey into the corner. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets two and they go up top, where Sami gets headbutted to the apron. Sikoa gets in a cheap shot and Jey superkicks him for the pin at 9:54.

Rating: B-. If the Bloodline is continuing for the time being (or beyond), Uso needed to win here as the non-Reigns members needed the boost. If nothing else, this keeps up the idea of Sami/Owens needing each other to deal with the Bloodline, though Owens is not going to be happy here. In other words, the saga continues, despite a huge step being taken at Wrestlemania.

Post match the beatdown is on but Jey breaks up the Samoan Spike. Then he superkicks Sami himself and has Sikoa get a chair. Cue Matt Riddle for the save (remember that Sikoa put him on the shelf in December) to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Maybe it was just the comparison to Raw, but this was a rather good show and felt like everything before this Monday's debacle. There were good matches and storylines advanced so it was a totally useful two hours of TV. That is better than I would have expected and we'll it a huge relief. On top of that there is the Draft announcement so something big is on the horizon.

Results

Brawling Brutes b. Imperium – Brogue Kick to Vinci

Ricochet b. Ivar – Shooting star press

Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan b. Natalya/Shotzi – Oblivion to Shotzi

Judgment Day b. Rey Mysterio/Santos Escobar – South of Heaven to Escobar

Jey Uso b. Sami Zayn – Superkick

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