

# Rampage – February 10, 2023: Finding Their Groove

## Rampage

Date: February 10, 2023

Location: County Coliseum, El Paso, Texas

Commentators: Jim Ross, Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Chris Jericho

We are still in Texas with less than a month to go before Revolution. That should make for a few interesting weeks but this week's lineup doesn't exactly offer much in the way of hope. The Blackpool Combat Club is here though and that is one of the better things Rampage could do. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

## Blackpool Combat Club vs. Butcher and the Blade/Kip Sabian

Sabian drives Yuta into the corner to start but a sunset flip gets Yuta out of trouble. Yuta is sent outside and Castagnoli comes in, with Butcher getting to come in as well for the power staredown. They yell at each other and slug it out, with both of them staggering. Moxley and then Yuta come in to take turns on Butcher as Jericho talks about the Impractical Jokers cast stealing his baseball bat.

Sabian is able to grab a flipping Stunner on Yuta for a breather and Blade gets to stomp away. That doesn't last long and it's Moxley coming back in to bite Sabian in the head. Moxley goes for the Kimura and elbows at the head, only to get kneed in the face. Sabian sends him outside and we take a break.

Back with Moxley fighting out of trouble and handing it off to

Castagnoli for the running uppercuts in the corner. A running dropkick puts Blade down and Sabian has to save him from the Swing. That means the Swing has Sabian in trouble and the Blade gets caught in the Sharpshooter. Butcher makes the save but gets cuttered and we hit the parade of big shots to the face. Castagnoli plants Blade for two with Sabian making the save. Moxley cutters a springboarding Sabian out of the air and Castagnoli finishes with the uppercut at 13:27.

**Rating:** B. This was similar to last week's Elite match, as there was no reason to believe there was an upset coming, but it was a lot of fun to watch. That's the kind of no pressure match that could do a lot of good around here as you get star power, entertaining action and nothing that really matters. Very fun stuff here and it's not like Sabian and company are hurt by the loss.

Darby Allin promises to not go after the TNT Title again as long as Samoa Joe is champion. He and Sting have something planned though.

We get a short sneak preview of a sitdown interview with Adam Cole. He's interested in facing some people on the roster.

Ricky Starks wants Chris Jericho again and he'll beat up Daniel Garcia to take his first step there.

Here are the Impractical Jokers with Chris Jericho's bat. It's a lot smaller than they were expecting but here is the Jericho Appreciation Society to beat them down. One is put on a table, with Hager powerbombing the other through him.

Dustin Rhodes says Swerve Strickland crossed the line by mentioning his family. Rhodes has been doing this longer than Strickland has been alive. Rhodes: "What are those three triangles on your chest? They look like Doritos, and I like Doritos!" He's coming for Strickland's blood and soul so here are Parker Boudreaux and Trench to beat him down. Strickland comes in to say the match is on for next week.

## Ruby Soho vs. Marina Shafir

Vickie Guerrero is here with Shafir. They go to the mat to start with an exchange of arm cranking. Back up and Soho hits a running forearm as we take a break. Back with Soho hitting a kind of reverse fisherman's suplex but missing a top rope something. No Future is countered so Soho hits some headbutts. Destination Unknown finishes Shafir at 6:40.

**Rating:** C. They didn't have time to do anything here, especially with half of the match in the commercial. Soho continues to be the What If in the originals vs. newcomers feud and odds are we'll get to see something develop there soon. Shafir is fine in this role and Soho beating her feels like a bit of an accomplishment. Granted Soho beating anyone at this point is a bit of a surprise.

Post match Saraya and Toni Storm come out to talk to Soho but Britt Baker and Jamie Hayter run in for the big brawl as Soho looks on.

Mark Briscoe is feeling real good about wrestling again on Dynamite next week. Mark Sterling comes in to offer his services but Briscoe "will be flying solo on this excursion." The brawl is teased but Josh Woods comes in for the staredown, saying this isn't Sandy Fork.

## Jungle Boy vs. Ryan Nemeth

Jungle Boy knocks him outside for a suicide dive in less than ten seconds. Back in and Nemeth rolls through a high crossbody for two, setting up a DDT. Nemeth gyrates a bit so Jungle Boy hits a sliding forearm to the back of the head for the pin at 1:24. Well that was efficient.

Post match Brian Cage comes out for the staredown.

Ortiz isn't going to let Eddie Kingston become a follower of the House Of Black.

Stokely Hathaway and Danhausen are ready for Lee Moriarty vs. Orange Cassidy.

Hangman Page is livid over losing to Jon Moxley again and says it's not over yet. Kip Sabian comes in with Penelope Ford to mock Page, who lunges at him before walking away.

#### All Atlantic Title: Orange Cassidy vs. Lee Moriarty

Cassidy is defending with Danhausen and Stokely Hathaway here too. Moriarty grabs a hammerlock to start and even steals Cassidy's glasses. As Cassidy slips out, JR sends best wishes to Jerry Lawler, with Jericho immediately talking about how much he loves Lawler. Cassidy uses the hands in the pockets to escape but gets shouldered down. That means some lazy kicks from the mat (Jericho: "Like Inoki against Ali!") before Cassidy is sent to the apron.

Some rams into the buckle rock Moriarty but Cassidy misses a top rope clothesline. A European Clutch gives Moriarty two and he slams the arm onto the apron as we take a break. Back with Cassidy hitting the top rope clothesline, allowing Excalibur to rapid fire off the preview for next week's shows. The Stundog Millionaire rocks Moriarty but he blocks the tornado DDT. Cassidy grabs a sleeper but Moriarty drops backwards for the break.

The Border City Stretch is blocked so Moriarty elbows away at the shoulder instead. With Cassidy on the floor, Danhausen goes for his low blow on Hathaway, who blocks it with the cast on his left arm. Cassidy hits his dive onto Moriarty and grabs the top rope DDT back inside. The Orange Punch is countered into a hard lariat but Cassidy Beach Breaks him for two. Now the Orange Punch can connect but the arm is too banged up. Moriarty gets the Border City Stretch, only to have Cassidy roll him up to retain at 11:27.

**Rating:** C+. Rampage as something like the Orange Cassidy Show isn't the worst idea, as the fans love him and he holds the

most worthless of the AEW titles. It really only has value to Cassidy and having him beat one midcard challenger after another is a fine way to go. That was on full display here and the formula still works.

Post match Satnam Singh comes in for the staredown but Jeff Jarrett and Jay Lethal run in from behind. Lethal hits Cassidy and Danhausen with the Golden Globe. The Best Friends try to come in but get beaten down as well. Jarrett loads up the guitar...but the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn run in with chairs to end the show. What an odd choice for the save.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Good show here, though the ending was more than a little head scratching. What matters is that Rampage is starting to find itself again. AEW has made it pretty clear that they have no long term interest in making Rampage important so just do something like this every week: a few big names, feature the people who aren't on Dynamite that often, and just have a good time. If that's all Rampage is going to be, I can think of worse uses for the hour.

### Results

Blackpool Combat Club b. Kip Sabian/Butcher and the Blade – Uppercut to Sabian

Ruby Soho b. Marina Shafir – Destination Unknown

Jungle Boy b. Ryan Nemeth – Sliding forearm

Orange Cassidy b. Lee Moriarty – Rollup

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# Smackdown – February 10, 2023: After All This Time

## Smackdown

Date: February 10, 2023

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We are just over a week away from Elimination Chamber and the main portion of the card is set. That is going to include a pair of Elimination Chamber matches, plus Sami Zayn challenging Roman Reigns for the World Title. Odds are the latter will get some focus this week so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Roman Reigns and Sami Zayn brawling last week, with Sami getting beaten down but also getting the Elimination Chamber title match.

Opening sequence.

Here is Paul Heyman to talk about Sami Zayn, who is not here this evening. Can anyone imagine Zayn as champion? It's as insane as Cody Rhodes saying it was personal on Raw. Heyman: "YOU DUMBA\*\*!" These championships are not just titles, but rather the centerpieces of the Island of Relevancy. They are the blood that flows through the veins of the Bloodline. Without these titles, there is no Roman Reigns.

Cue Zayn from behind though and Heyman knows this isn't good. Zayn holds out his hand for the mic but don't worry, because he won't hurt Heyman. Isn't that interesting? A month ago, Solo Sikoa and Jimmy Uso would have dropped him, but now Heyman is here by himself and Heyman probably knows why. Reigns' days as Universal Champion are numbered and look at how he is acting. Look at how Reigns is treating everyone else.

Heyman has looked at Reigns for two years and it's a little creepy. Now Heyman is talking about his days after Reigns so Zayn makes it clear: Reigns has eight days left. Heyman asks for the mic, but Zayn says Reigns doesn't have to worry about Cody, because Zayn is taking him down first. With Zayn gone, Heyman looks shaken up. This stuff is still fire but dang it is going to be rough seeing it possibly cut off at the knees next week.

#### Hit Row vs. Sheamus/Drew McIntyre

This is due to Hit Row being made over not getting to face McIntyre and Sheamus as planned last week. McIntyre throws Adonis into the corner to start but Dolla breaks up the Claymore. Sheamus takes Adonis back inside, where a dropkick staggers him. Dolla gets in a shot of his own but Sheamus fights up. McIntyre Claymores Dolla and the Brogue Kick finishes Adonis at 2:52.

Post match we get a video from the Viking Raiders, who seem ready for a fight next week.

Jimmy Uso can't find Jey, with the Tag Team Title match coming tonight.

Karrion Kross is ready to become the #1 contender to the Intercontinental Title by hurting Rey Mysterio. And two other people.

#### Lacey Evans vs. Cameron Harris

Evans doesn't think much of Harris to start and whips her hard into the corner. Some pushups let Evans show off a bit, followed by the Woman's Right and Cobra Clutch to make Harris tap at 2:05.

Jimmy Uso continues to panic about his lack of a twin brother. Paul Heyman wonders where Jimmy was when the psychopathic Canadian held him hostage in a casino. Jimmy shrugs it off and wants Heyman as his partner since Solo Sikoa isn't here either. That doesn't seem to work for Heyman, but Jimmy says it's cool because his brother will be here.

Sonya Deville isn't happy with not being in the Elimination Chamber. Chelsea Green interrupts and asks to see the Smackdown manager. Adam Pearce says he's the Raw manager as well, which has Green accusing him of saying everyone looks away. Pearce is sick of this and puts them in a match together tonight.

#### Tag Team Titles: Usos vs. Ricochet/Braun Strowman

The Usos are defending, or at least Jimmy is as he comes out with no partner. Well hold on though as we get the Big Match Intros....and Jey comes through the crowd. Jey shoulders Ricochet down to start and then elbows him for a bonus. Ricochet manages a Tajiri handspring elbows for two on Jimmy, who smiles as Ricochet grabs a front facelock. It's off to Strowman for the winning splash in the corner, with Jimmy needing a breather. Back in and a quick Samoan drop plants Ricochet, followed by a superkick to send him outside.

We take a break and come back with Ricochet still in trouble. He gets in a shot of his own though and it's the hot tag to Strowman to clean house. Strowman gets sent outside though and a superkick rocks him again. Back in and a high crossbody makes it worse but Strowman gets over to Ricochet. Jimmy gets knocked down and it's a powerslam into the off the shoulders Swanton for two, with Jey making the save. Strowman runs Jey



over on the floor but Jey tags himself in. Ricochet hits Jimmy with the shooting star press, only to bounce off so Jey can hit the Superfly Splash to retain at 13:14.

**Rating:** B-. Well so much for the drama, as Jey came in before anything happened and they had an Usos match. In other words, it was a match without a ton of drama as the Usos have been presented as so far and away better than any other team. What we got here was good enough for a televised title match and that's all it needed to be if they weren't going to have any serious drama.

Rey Mysterio is ready to fight through Karrion Kross to get another shot at Gunther and the Intercontinental Title.

Jey Uso tells Jimmy that he'll always have his brother's back. As far as the Bloodline, he doesn't know yet. Jey leaves and Paul Heyman comes up to ask what Jey said. Jimmy says Jey didn't say anything and just left, which is fine with Heyman. Question: did we ever get an explanation for why Solo wasn't here tonight? I know Reigns had faith in Jimmy to get Jey there, but he's also the kind of person to have all his bases covered.

Here is Natalya to talk about how she took Shayna Baszler's spot in the Elimination Chamber. That's because Baszler is nothing more than a Ronda Rousey knockout and Natalya is going on to win the Chamber next week. Cue Baszler to interrupt, saying she is tired of everyone dismissing her accomplishments. Natalya isn't happy with Rousey...but here is Rousey to beat Natalya down. Shotzi's save attempt fails as well and Baszler goes after Natalya's arm to leave her laying.

Jey Uso runs into Sami Zayn, who says Jey has been having a rough time lately. Zayn knows what Roman Reigns can put people through and he thanks Jey for what he did at the Royal Rumble. Jey doesn't have to go down with the ship and there is a way out at Elimination Chamber. Zayn acknowledges Jey, which gets

a head snap. Jey tells Zayn to get out of here with that, but they do fist bump.

LA Knight doesn't want to talk about the Pitch Black match because it's all about the future and that is him. We have officially established that Knight is still alive.

### Sonya Deville/Chelsea Green vs. Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan

Liv sends Deville into the corner to start and hits a running knee. Deville is fine enough to kneel Morgan out of the air for two but she fights out of the corner. A missed right hand knocks Green off the apron and the hot tag brings in Rodriguez to clean house. Rodriguez brings Green in and sends her into Deville on the apron. The Tejana Bomb into Oblivion into a powerbomb to drop Morgan onto Green is enough for the pin at 4:07.

**Rating:** C-. Rodriguez continues to feel like one of the next big works in progress and it should be interesting to see where she goes. She still needs to work on some stuff in the ring, but you can't argue with that size, strength and look. I'm not expecting this to be anything more than a one off, but Morgan as the replacement for Aliyah as Rodriguez projectile could be an upgrade over the hardcore stuff.

Madcap Moss, with Emma, is ready to win the four way. Emma has gotten him some better gear as well so he's rather confident.

Earlier today, we got a sitdown interview with Charlotte, who isn't worried about Rhea Ripley. Charlotte beat her at Wrestlemania three years ago and now Charlotte is still saying the same things about Ripley: she isn't ready for this level. Three years ago, Charlotte taught her a lesson and she'll put Ripley in her place in 50 days.

### Karrion Kross vs. Madcap Moss vs. Rey Mysterio vs. Santos Escobar

One fall to a finish for a future Intercontinental Title show and Scarlett/Emma/Zelina Vega are here too. Moss and Kross slug it out to start before Escobar and Rey come back in to clear the ring. That leaves Rey vs. Escobar, which has Barrett rather interested. A backbreaker gives Escobar two but the 619 is broken up. Rey dives onto Kross and Escobar dives onto Moss as we take a break.

Back with Moss running all three of the others over and rolling Escobar up for two. Rey's basement dropkick hits Escobar as Kross and Moss come back in too. The Phantom Driver gets two on Rey with Moss making the save. Escobar's top rope hurricanrana gets two on Moss but Kross sends Escobar outside. Rey 619s Kross down but Scarlett makes the save, allowing Kross to blast Rey in the back of the head. Kross gets pulled outside though, setting up Moss' top rope elbow for the pin and the title shot at 12:51.

**Rating:** C+. This was probably the best choice for an ending, as Gunther has already beaten Mysterio and he isn't going to face Kross or Escobar. That leaves Moss as the next designated victim. At least his look is better now and if he gets a better name, they might have a little something with him. Kross continues to be just kind of there and Escobar is a good hand, meaning the talent was certainly here for this one, though it didn't get up to that top level.

Paul Heyman comes in to see Jimmy Uso and says Roman Reigns is proud. The thing is, Reigns has an assignment for Jimmy next week: he wants Jimmy to stay home and watch the show on TV, because you get a different perspective from there. Sometimes you even hear things you don't get otherwise. A slap at the Tag Team Title belt wraps us up. So, finally, after all these years, SOMEONE ACTUALLY WATCHED THE SHOW???

**Overall Rating:** B-. This show was good enough on its own, but what matters here is they set things up for next week. That is going to be rather helpful, as the Elimination Chamber card is

set and there won't need to be much major work done on the go home show. That is the kind of planning for the future that you did not get under the old WWE regime and it is working well here.

### Results

Drew McIntyre/Sheamus b. Hit Row – Brogue Kick to Adonis

Lacey Evans b. Cameron Harris – Cobra Clutch

Usos b. Ricochet/Braun Strowman – Superfly Splash to Ricochet

Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan b. Sonya Deville/Chelsea Green – Powerbomb onto Deville

Madcap Moss b. Karrion Kross, Santos Escobar and Rey Mysterio – Top rope elbow to Mysterio

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# 10, 2023

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[Dynamite – February 8, 2023](#)

[Smackdown – March 28, 2008](#)

[Impact Wrestling – February 9, 2023](#)

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King Time: Jim Ross Provides Health Update On Jerry “The King” Lawler Following Stroke.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/king-time-jim-ross-provides-health-update-jerry-king-lawler-following-stroke/>

Switcheroo: Former Longtime WWE Star Talks Changing Up His In Ring Style.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/switcheroo-former-longtime-wwe-star-changing-ring-style/>

And NEW! Surprise Title Change Takes Place On AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-surprise-title-change-takes-place-aew-dynamite/>

It's Up Next: AEW Revolution Main Event Set To Feature Major World Title Match.

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It's A Matter Of Time: Interesting Detail On Lita's WWE Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/matter-time-interesting->

[detail-litas-ww-e-return/](#)

WRESTLING RUMORS: How WWE Views The Top SmackDown Stars.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-how-ww-e-views-the-top-smackdown-stars/>

Checking In: The Miz Set To Represent WWE In Rather Cool Event.

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WATCH: Seth Rollins Seems To Plant Seeds For Rumored WrestleMania Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/getting-ready-seth-rollins-seems-plant-seeds-rumored-wrestlemania-match/>

Catch You Later: Former WWE Champion Gone For The Time Being.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/catch-later-former-ww-e-champion-gone-time/>

They're Working On It: Multiple AEW Stars Missing From Television For The Time Being.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/theyre-working-multiple-ae-w-stars-missing-television-time/>

One More: 51 Year Old Former World Champion Announces Planned Return To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-former-world-champion-announces-planned-return-ring/>

A Long Time: Gunther Breaks 18 Year Old Record As Intercontinental Champion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/long-time-gunther-breaks-18-year-old-record-intercontinental-champion/>

Take Your Time: NXT Star To Miss TV Time After Violent Attack.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/take-time-nxt-star-miss-tv-time-violent-attack/>

A Step Up: AEW Announces International Television Deal With ESPN.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/step-aew-announces-international-television-deal-espn/>

From The Man: Undertaker Reveals What He Said To Bray Wyatt At Raw XXX.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/man-undertaker-reveals-said-bray-wyatt-raw-xxx/>

Maybe? Here Is CM Punk's Current AEW Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/maybe-cm-punks-current-aew-status/>

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# Impact Wrestling – February 9, 2023: Fare Not Well

## Impact Wrestling

Date: February 9, 2023

Location: Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, Florida

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

No Surrender is coming up and most of the card has been set up so far. That includes the World Title match, which has not exactly gotten a ton of hype. Maybe it is because it seems we have another challenger on the horizon, but Rich Swann challenging Josh Alexander isn't exactly feeling huge. Hopefully they can get some more of it covered this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Matt Cardona arrives and says he's in the main event tonight. He is shown to his private dressing room with champagne and shrimp cocktails, but it turns out this is Joe Hendry's room. Cardona is shown to a closet instead.

No Surrender #1 Contenders Qualifying Match: Brian Myers vs. Dirty Dango

They run the ropes to start until Dango armdrags him into an armbar. Myers' sunset flip is blocked and Dango drops a leg before they head outside. A posting cuts Dango off and of course Myers is fine to try for a countout. Back in and we hit the chinlock, complete with trash talking. Dango fights up and they collide for a double knockdown. A Russian legsweep sets up the Dirtbag Shuffle, followed by a top rope ax handle to send Myers outside. That's fine with Myers who hits a Roster Cut on the floor, followed by another inside for the pin at 6:50.

**Rating:** C. I'm kind of digging the more serious Dango, who has been shifting away from a lot of the comedy and wrestling more traditional matches. As it turns out, he can do those well enough to get by and even do well in some places. Myers is a bigger name and easier to take more seriously so it makes sense for him to win, but Dango has been doing well lately.

Gisele Shaw, with Jai Vidal, messes up a few meals at



catering. Deonna Purrazzo doesn't like what Shaw has been saying lately though and throws what looks like chili in her face. Santino Marella comes in to make a No Surrender match.

Trey Miguel thinks Crazy Steve is in fact crazy and wants nothing more to do with him. Steve's laughter is heard and a bloody version of Miguel's logo appears. Miguel freaks out.

### Good Hands vs. Mickie James/Tommy Dreamer

Before the match, the Good Hands talk about how much they hate Florida, which is nowhere as valuable as a hand. Mickie and Hotch start things off with Mickie taking him down without much effort. Dreamer comes in to stay on the arm with James coming right back in with a top rope ax handle to said arm. Skyler comes in so Dreamer sends both of the Hands outside.

Dreamer's dive off the apron takes both of them down again, followed by Mickie hitting a big dive of her own. The Texas Cloverleaf is on but Hotch makes a quick save. It's Dreamer getting taken down in the corner for a hip attack but he's right back up with a cutter. Mickie comes back in to clean house, including the flapjack into the top rope Thesz press. The MickieDT finishes Hotch at 5:22.

**Rating:** C. Intergender wrestling can be tricky to pull off but they made it work well here. James is one of the most successful women's wrestlers of all time and it isn't too much to believe that she could beat one of Bully Ray's lackeys. Dreamer vs. Ray is still a bit much to take as one of the bigger feuds in the company, but that is where everything seems to be heading.

Post match Bully Ray comes in and decks Dreamer, allowing Masha Slamovich to come in and take out Mickie.

Johnny Swinger, with Zicky Dice, asks Santino Marella for his next match as part of his path to 50 wins. Dirty Dango, the Deputy Director Of Authority, comes in to cut off a bribe

attempt but Dice knows someone Swinger can beat.

Video on Rich Swann and how important it was to him to be World Champion. He didn't get to have fans around, but he knows he inspired a lot of people. Then he lost to Kenny Omega when AEW worked with Impact. Josh Alexander wound up as champion so now Swann wants his belt back. He has his mojo back, so now he needs the title to go with it. This was a different look at Swann and the best thing in the build to the title match thus far.

### Steph DeLander vs. Jordynne Grace

DeLander was Persia Pirotta in NXT and here, she promises to be everyone's worst nightmare. DeLander starts fast by sending her to the apron but Grace powers her way out of trouble. With DeLander on the floor, Grace hits a dropkick through the ropes for two back inside. A quick shot lets DeLander have a breather though and we hit the chinlock.

Grace is right back up though and shrugs off a suplex, setting up the dead lift German suplex for two on DeLander. The Grace Driver is blocked so Grace sends her into the corner. DeLander grabs Snake Eyes into a big boot (seems to be an Undertaker fan), only to have Grace pop back up. The Grace Driver finishes DeLander at 5:02.

**Rating:** C. Another just ok match in a series of them tonight as DeLander got in a bunch but wound up losing to the bigger star. Grace is going to be back in the title picture sooner than later so giving her a win, even while breaking a sweat, is a good thing. That being said, DeLander was hardly a big star in NXT and I'm not sure how much value she has coming in here. Maybe she can prove herself, and she did start well here.

Matt Cardona is still mad about having to change in a closet so he asks for another dressing room. He gets another one...which is outside.

Josh Alexander respects Rich Swann and knows that Swann only lost one match on one night. Now Swann has his chance to get back but here is Kenny King to interrupt. King wants to know why he isn't getting a title shot but Swann comes in to say King has to earn it. Swann punches him in the face and Alexander lets them go, only to have King back off.

### Killer Kelly/Taylor Wilde vs. Death Dollz

Non-title and it's Taya Valkyrie and Rosemary for the Dollz. Taya takes Kelly down to start and it's off to Rosemary to hammer away with right hands. A fall away slam out of the corner sets up the Upside Down as Wilde is looking at her tarot cards on the apron. Wilde comes in and grabs a quick backbreaker to take Rosemary down for the first time.

A fisherman's suplex gives Kelly two and it's right back to Wilde for some forearms. Rosemary manages her half of a double clothesline, which is enough to bring Taya back in. Kelly manages to take her down again but Wilde finds the devil card. That means she won't tag in, allowing a Road To Valhalla with an X Factor from Rosemary to finish Kelly at 6:03.

**Rating:** C+. Impact's Knockouts division deserves a lot of credit as they have turned it into something rather entertaining most of the time. There is some depth here and Kelly and Wilde are coming along quite well. The Death Dollz need some challengers though and I'm not sure if there is a team around at the moment to fill that spot.

Post match it's Father James Mitchell making his return and saying Rosemary hasn't been paying proper respect to Mitchell's boss/her father. Therefore, Mitchell is here with a hex...in the form of the Hex, Marti Belle/Allysin Kay (former NWA Women's Tag Team Champions). The Dollz are laid out.

Eddie Edwards wants Shera to take out PCO as an act of friendship. Edwards seems to offer money as an extra incentive.

Kushida praises the Motor City Machine Guns for their success. The Bullet Club comes in and seems to want a title shot but get a six man tag at No Surrender, with Kenta being promised as their partner.

#### No Surrender #1 Contenders Qualifying Match: PCO vs. Shera

Raj Singh is here as PCO hammers on Shera to start. A punch to the throat sends Shera outside to set up the suicide flip dive as the fans approve of PCO. Singh's distraction lets Shera get in a few shots of his own but PCO, busted open, sits up and looks a bit perturbed. PCO runs Shera over while screaming about Eddie Edwards. The PCOsault finishes Shera at 3:10.

**Rating:** C. The match was more or less a squash and I can appreciate it going that way. There is only so much of a reason to believe that Shera was anything resembling a threat to PCO so just let him run Shera over. PCO isn't likely to win at No Surrender, but I could absolutely see him being a challenger of the month as a wild card.

Matt Cardona is back inside and finds Brian Myers in Joe Hendry's dressing room, but apparently it is just for the shrimp. Some people come in singing Hendry's song and Myers claps along with them. Myers: "It's a catchy song."

Frankie Kazarian tries to talk Sami Callihan out of joining the Design but Sami thinks Kazarian has the sickness. The Design comes in and Kazarian issues a challenge to Big Kon.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

#### Digital Media Title: Joe Hendry vs. Matt Cardona

Hendry is defending and refers to Cardona as Edge's b\*\*\*\* before the match. He knows the people believe in him though and that's what will be going through his head during the match. Cardona hits Radio Silence at the bell for two and the kickout leaves him livid. They go outside with Hendry

hammering away and sending him right back inside.

A spinning slam sets up a delayed suplex for two on Cardona, who needs a breather on the floor. Cardona sweeps the leg on the apron and grabs a neckbreaker on the outside as we take a break. Back with Cardona choking in the corner, setting up a neckbreaker for two. Hendry tries a suplex but gets reversed into another neckbreaker for another two. The chinlock doesn't last long so Cardona switches into a guillotine.

That's reversed with a suplex and they're both down for a breather. Hendry makes the clothesline comeback, setting up the fall away slam to send Cardona flying. Cardona grabs the rope so a DDT can plant Hendry for two of his own. The Reboot is blocked and Hendry cutters him for two. Another Radio Silence gives Cardona another near fall so here is Brian Myers to throw in the belt. The distraction lets Myers hit the Roster Cut...on Cardona by mistake. Myers is sent outside and the Standing Ovation retains the title at 13:02.

**Rating:** B-. This got rolling near the end as Hendry can wrestle a good match when he is given the chance. They might have something with him as that charisma can't be ignored. At the same time, Cardona's transformation from total goof into solid heel (including the physical transformation) is incredibly impressive. He feels like a star so Hendry beating him is a good step forward.

Post match Moose comes in and goes after Hendry but spears Cardona by mistake. Hendry dispatches Moose and plays Cardona's new song again to end the show. If that's not it for Cardona around here, they missed a golden opportunity to send him off in an all time humiliating way.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Impact got back on their good side this week with a solid enough show that actually made me more interested in the World Title match at No Surrender. Other than that, the Cardona stuff was rather funny as he does a

great job at getting humiliated. Fun show here and, as usual, they built towards the future, which is one of their strong suits these days.

### Results

Brian Myers b. Dirty Dango – Roster Cut

Mickie James/Tommy Dreamer b. Good Hands – MickieDT to Hotch

Jordynne Grace b. Steph DeLander – Grace Driver

Death Dollz b. Killer Kelly/Taylor Wilde – Road To Valhalla/Facebuster combination to Kelly

PCO b. Shera – PCOsault

Joe Hendry b. Matt Cardona – Standing Ovation

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## **Smackdown – March 28, 2008:**

# Just Get There

## Smackdown

Date: March 28, 2008

Location: Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville, North, Carolina

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jonathan Gresham

We are two days away from Wrestlemania and that means it is time for the absolute final push. Edge vs. Undertaker has been all but completely built so far but we'll probably get even more on it here. There are some other matches to cover and odds are we will see some guest stars this week. Let's get to it.

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

Kane vs. Great Khali vs. Chuck Palumbo vs. Mark Henry

Chavo Guerrero is on commentary and this is an over the top rope challenge. Kane goes after his fellow giants to start but gets jumped by Palumbo. That earns Palumbo a fast elimination and Henry runs Kane over to cut him off. Khali adds the chokebomb and Henry eliminates Kane, giving us a Khali vs. Henry staredown. The chop drops Henry but he lifts Khali up and throws him out for the win.

Post match Chavo sneaks in to go after Henry's knee. This goes as well as the ACME Eddie Trap from back in the Thunder days, as Henry plants him with the World's Strongest Slam.

Eve Torres is eliminated from the Divas competition. Victoria and Maryse come in to laugh so Teddy Long says they can settle it in the ring. In a water fight.

CM Punk vs. John Morrison

They trade some grappling to start until Punk gets the better of a kick off. Punk's running crossbody sends them crashing out to the floor as we take a break. Back with Morrison

fighting out of a headscissors but getting hit in the ribs again. Morrison bails to the floor for a breather and even sweeps Punk's feet to bring him crashing down.

Punk is sent shoulder first into the post for two and we hit the armbar. Back up and more kicks don't get Punk very far but a backdrop works rather well for him. With Morrison being sent outside, Punk nails a suicide dive and a snap powerslam gives him two back inside. A butterfly backbreaker gets another near fall but Morrison grabs a neckbreaker for two more.

The GTS is countered so Punk goes with the running knee in the corner into the bulldog for another near fall. They both head up top, with Punk snapping off a super hurricanrana for the huge crash. That's enough for Punk, who counters the neckbreaker into the GTS to put Morrison away.

**Rating:** C+. These two work well together and you can see the future potential in both. What matters here is giving Punk some momentum, as he seems like a possible breakout star while Morrison is already a champion. Go with what makes sense here, as Money In The Bank is all that matters for either of them.

Boxing people talk about Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Big Show.

We look at the Wrestlemania press conference.

Miz/Lance Cade/Trevor Murdoch vs. Jesse & Festus/Kofi Kingston

Festus does his bell ringing deal and Cade bails to the floor in fear. Back in and a slam drops Cade, allowing Jesse to grab a headlock as Cole makes baseball metaphors. Kofi comes in with the crossbody and it's back to Jesse to punch Murdoch in the face. A distraction lets Miz get in a shot on Jesse and we hit the chinlock with a knee in the back. Jesse suplexes his way out of trouble but Miz grabs one of his own. Another chinlock goes on but a jawbreaker and backdrop allow the diving tag off to Kingston. House is cleaned and everything breaks down, leaving Kofi to hit the spinning kick to the face



to finish Miz.

**Rating:** C. It was a pretty basic match with Kofi getting a nice shine out of the whole thing. I believe this is Kingston's first match on Smackdown and he made a nice enough impression. There is something about the way he moves and it is rather fun to see him get in there and do his thing, especially with the biggest win of his career to date. Everyone else...well they were there too, though you're only getting so much out of a battle royal preview.

Going in Hall of Fame: Gordon Solie.

### Batista vs. Snitsky

Batista Bomb in less than thirty seconds.

Post match Batista hits it again on a chair. Point made.

Long video on Edge vs. Undertaker, focusing on a battle of the Streaks. This did a good job of making the match feel that much bigger so well done.

### Michelle McCool/Cherry vs. Maryse/Victoria

It's a Wet And Wild Water Fight with Eve Torres as referee. Therefore, Victoria comes out in scuba gear, complete with flippers. They throw water balloons at each other and then bust out the water guns as I think you get the idea here. Maryse pauses to do her hair flip and gets a bucket poured on her head. Victoria slips and gets rolled up for two before more watering ensues. The teams break down and Michelle hits the Wings of Love (Angel's Wings) to finish Victoria. This was the definition of "it was what it was".

Wrestlemania rundown.

### MVP vs. Chris Jericho

Before the match, MVP promises to get some new initials on

Sunday. They fight over arm control to start with Jericho getting the better of things early on. Back up and Jericho sweeps the legs to turn it into a brawl, including sending MVP outside. A ram into the announcers' table has MVP in more trouble so they head back inside. This time MVP sends him hard to the floor as we take a break.

Back with MVP holding a seated abdominal stretch before running Jericho over again. Ballin gets two but Jericho gets in a shot of his own. The top rope forearm to the back of the head puts MVP down and Jericho gets to slug away. An overhead belly to belly gets MVP out of trouble but Jericho elbows him in the face. The Lionsault hits knees though and MVP hits a running boot to the face in the corner. The Playmaker is broken up so the Walls can go on, only to have MVP make the rope. With nothing else working, MVP grabs the belt, which is enough for the DQ.

**Rating:** C+. Lame (though better than having a champion take a fall) ending aside, this was another example of "well, what else were you expecting" as they had a completely decent match. MVP has come a long way in the last several months and Jericho can wrestle with anyone. The match wasn't exactly great, but it worked well for what we got.

Post match Jericho cuts off a charging belt shot with the Codebreaker before finding a ladder. The running shot to the face leaves MVP laying.

Here is Edge, with the Edgeheads and all three of them in suits, to bury the Undertaker's Streak. Edge talks about how great the Streak is and lists off some of its victims. After Sunday though, no one will remember the Streak, because Edge's streak will be the only thing left.

Vickie talks about how great Edge is and promises he'll win, because he is so much more than everyone else. She lists off some great things about Edge and throws us to a Rated R

trailer for Edge's victory at Wrestlemania. Edge is very happy with how that went but now it is time to say goodbye to the Streak and the Undertaker before Wrestlemania. As Edge kisses Vickie though, the gong sounds and Undertaker pops up in the casket. House is cleaned and Edge bails, giving us the big staredown to end the show. Nice segment here as it felt different, even though the payoff at the end might as well have had its own countdown.

**Overall Rating:** C. Much like Raw and ECW, there was only so much to be done here other than have one last push towards Wrestlemania. The show is made and if they do well there, the last few months are worth it. A lot of new stuff is probably coming up next week though, making this a show that is going to be badly outdated in just a few days. For now, it served its purpose well enough and that's all you could have asked.

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# Making Some Changes

I'm changing ad servers in the near future so things might look a bit different around here, including the placement and amount of ads. This will be a bit of a work in progress so please bear with me. The initial new version will not likely be the final thing so if it's bad at first, please be patient. I can tweak whatever is needed so if people aren't happy with it, I can adjust it as we go.

Also note that this is JUST for the ads and nothing will be changed as far as content, scheduling, etc.

Thanks for sticking around as always,

KB

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## Dynamite – February 8, 2023: That'll Get Them Talking

### Dynamite

Date: February 8, 2023

Location: County Coliseum, El Paso, Texas

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

It's a title themed show this week as we have two title matches plus a pair of eliminator matches. That should be enough to make for a good night as AEW tends to treat its titles seriously. The build towards Revolution continues and

we should be getting some more added to the card. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Maxwell Jacob Friedman vs. Konosuke Takeshita

Non-title. MJF's offer of a handshake is brushed off to start so Takeshita hammers down some right hands in the corner. A knee is blocked and MJF sends him into the corner to take over. We hit the armbar, followed by a hammerlock DDT for two on Takeshita. Back up and Takeshita hits a quick brainbuster for two and a frog splash (remember we're in Eddie's hometown) gets the same.

Takeshita traps the legs and hits a Tombstone, followed by a wheelbarrow suplex to send MJF outside. MJF gets in a shot of his own and takes it back inside, with Takeshita being put up top. Takeshita hits a heck of a clothesline to knock MJF back down, but a superkick rocks Takeshita as well. The armbar goes on but Takeshita fights up and sends him to the floor for the big flip dive.

Back in and MJF rolls outside again, only to be sent right back inside. That lets him kick the rope for a low blow to take over but a powerbomb onto the knee just hurts MJF. Takeshita hits a Blue Thunder Bomb for another near fall and the knee to the face gets two, with MJF putting his foot on the ropes. Back up and MJF avoids a springboard Swanton and the Salt of the Earth finishes Takeshita at 13:16.

**Rating:** B. Solid match here, as the champ gets a win without cheating for the finish (though not without cheating entirely). You need to have MJF get a win or two like this every so often to remind people that there is something behind just being a weasel. Good opener, and the show is off to a hot start.

Post match MJF hits him in the face with the diamond ring. Takeshita is busted open and Bryan Danielson makes the save.

Samoa Joe is ready to end Wardlow.

### Bunny vs. Jamie Hayter

Non-title again with Penelope Ford, Britt Baker and Rebel here too. Bunny starts fast and grabs a choke over the ropes. They head outside with Hayter getting suplexed into the steps as we take an early break. Back with Baker holding up a Hayterade sign but Ford breaks it up. Hayter tries some kind of a suplex and drops Bunny on her head, setting up the ripcord lariat for the pin at 6:12. That felt a lot like Bunny got knocked silly as they were only back from a break for about thirty seconds.

**Rating:** C-. The match wasn't much before the sudden ending but above all else, Hayter didn't need to lariat her if there was even the slightest chance Bunny was hurt. She got dropped on her head, so just give her a weak cover for the pin. Either way, Hayter gets to look strong, but hopefully Bunny isn't too banged up.

Saraya and Toni Storm make fun of homegrown AEW women and spray paint Leva Bates. Today I learned Leva Bates still works here.

MJF thought Takeshita was the next big thing and Bryan Danielson thinks MJF is nothing. We hear about MJF getting a bunch of speeding tickets in his Camaro and then taking his big crush (with what sounded like a nod to Liv Morgan) out for a ride. After the girl got doing...something, they hit a phone pole at 90 miles an hour and got knocked out. The cops were coming but MJF switched their places so he wouldn't lose his license. He goes into a rant about how there are winners and losers in life and he'll prove he's a winner at Revolution. I'm not sure why he just admitted to what has to be a crime, but it was intense.

## Garcia-Guevara Gauntlet

Ricky Starks is running the gauntlet and starts with Angelo Parker. After a few shots in the corner, Starks hits the spear for the pin at 1:11. Matt Menard comes in and gets rolled up for the pin at 1:28 total. Daniel Garcia is in third and chokes away in the corner but has to dodge the spear as we take a break. Back with Starks fighting out of a choke but the Roshambo is countered. They fight to the apron and Starks knocks him to the floor. Cue a fan in a mask to knock Starks silly with a Judas Effect. Garcia gets the pin at 8:14.

**Rating:** C. This was an angle rather than a match for the most part, but I'm still not clear on why this feud is continuing. Starks pinned Jericho clean and is still feuding with him for a chance to do it again a month and a half later. That's hardly the most logical way to go, but I'm sure Jericho thinks it's brilliant for whatever reason.

And yeah it's Chris Jericho, for some reason to Taz's shock.

Billy Gunn is going to stay in the back for the Tag Team Title match. Scissoring with the Acclaimed ensues.

Bryan Danielson and Konosuke Takeshita get locked in the trainer's room.

## Rush vs. Bryan Danielson

If Danielson wins, he gets MJF in a sixty minute Iron Man match at Revolution. There is no Danielson so here is MJF to say ring the bell and count to ten. Aubrey Edwards starts as we see Danielson and Takeshita breaking down the door and making to the ring (MJF calling Aubrey a bum to make her count more slowly made sense).

MJF joins commentary as Rush beats up Danielson in the corner and goes after the bad arm. They go outside with Danielson being sent shoulder first into the barricade, with Danielson's

head being busted open. The slow beating continues as Rush poses a lot and MJF is rather pleased. Danielson fights back up and they go to the apron, with Danielson striking away. A charge lets Rush belly to belly him hard to the floor though and we take a break.

Back with Danielson not being able to get the LeBell Lock but sending Rush outside for some rams into the barricade. A missile dropkick connects back inside and they strike it out, with Danielson hitting the SI (si, SI) kicks to send Rush into the corner. Rush gets in a shot of his own though and a straitjacket piledriver gets two. The running knee connects for two on Rush and they exchange a lot of headbutts. Danielson is back up with another running knee for the pin at 15:48.

**Rating:** B-. Well at least the other gauntlet story is done as there wasn't much of a point to running two at the same time. This sets up Danielson for the World Title match at Revolution, which should be interesting in a few ways. It's also probably Rush's best match in AEW, which doesn't cover too much ground but it's another name on the list of "he had his best match ever with Danielson".

Some of the cast of Impractical Jokers are here and don't like Chris Jericho, but they'll let him show up on their season premiere.

### Trios Titles: Elite vs. AR Fox/Top Flight

The Elite is defending. Matt takes Darius into the corner but gets suplexed down so the challengers can hit some slingshot hilos. The Bucks are right back up for the dropkicks before handing it off to Omega to plant Darius for two. We take a break and come back with Nick knocking the Martins down but Nick's frog splash hits knees.

Fox comes in with a rolling splash on Nick but takes too long beating up Omega. The Bucks get sent outside though and it's a



big flip dive to take them down. Fox hits the Swanton for two on Omega back inside and the tag brings in Dante to flip over the Bucks. Matt manages a northern lights suplex and cradle on Top Flight at the same time before Fox hits another flip dive.

Back in and the Nose Dive into a 450 gives Fox two, with Omega making a save. We hit the parade of shots to the face until the Indytaker hits Fox for two, with the Martins making the save. Omega loads up a dive but gets rolled up for two. The doctor bomb gets two on Fox, followed by the V Trigger but the One Winged Angel is countered into a rollup for two. We hit the pinfall reversal sequence until Omega can roll Fox up for the pin at 14:30.

**Rating:** B. It's an Elite match so what were you expecting to happen? They did their thing, it was a bunch of flips and signature stuff and then they shrugged off a bunch of moves and won. It's going to take a minor miracle to get those belts off of them and Top Flight, as good as they can be, aren't the team to be doing that.

Video on Hook.

Stokely Hathaway is tired of hearing about the Firm having trouble and it's worried about Hook. Cue Hook, who bends Hathaway's arm back and leaves. Minus the arm.

#### Tag Team Titles: Gunns vs. Acclaimed

Acclaimed is defending and there is no Billy Gunn. The Acclaimed clear the ring to start and it's Scissor Me Timbers to send us to a break. Back with Bowens coming back in to clean house but the referee gets bumped off the Quick Draw. Austin brings in a title belt so here is Billy Gunn to shove Bowens out of the way of a belt shot.

Colten hits Billy with the other belt but the Acclaimed is back up. The Arrival into the Mic Drop hits Austin but there is still no referee. Caster goes for the referee but gets sent

into the barricade. Colten breaks up the cover and a belt shot to the head gives the Gunns the pin and the titles at 10:31.

**Rating:** C. Well, that happened. This is one of those things that is going to be talked about for a good while to come and I'm really not sure I get it. The Gunns are about as middle of the road as you can get and they just took the titles from the hottest act in AEW. Maybe this is designed to get the Acclaimed the belts back at Revolution in a rather forced moment, but for now it feels like punching the golden goose in the beak for the sake of shock and awe.

The Acclaimed are stunned to end the show, even as their music plays.

**Overall Rating:** B-. That ending is going to be the main thing talked about and I'm really not sure how well it is going to go over. The Acclaimed are still crazy over and the Gunns...well...did you know they're Billy's kids? Other than that, they got around to the Revolution main event we knew was coming and gave MJF a win. Good enough show, but dang that is a risky main event result.

### Results

Maxwell Jacob Friedman b. Konosuke Takeshita – Salt of the Earth

Jamie Hayter b. Bunny – Ripcord lariat

Daniel Garcia b. Ricky Starks – Judas Effect

Bryan Danielson b. Rush – Running knee

Elite b. Top Flight/AR Fox – Rollup to Fox

Gunns b. Acclaimed – Belt to the face

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## Daily News Update – February 8, 2023

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[Monday Night Raw – February 6, 2023](#)

[NXT – February 7, 2023](#)

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Cha Ching: How WWE Made A Million Dollars In About Five Minutes.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/cha-ching-wwe-made-million-dollars-five-minutes/>

On The Go: Three WWE Stars Switch Brands.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/go-three-wwe-stars-officially-switch-brands/>

It's Not Over: Two More SmackDown Stars Heading To Monday Night Raw Roster.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-two-smackdown-stars-heading-monday-night-raw-roster/>

It's A Big One: Huge Grudge Match Set For WWE Elimination Chamber.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/big-one-huge-grudge-match-set-wwe-elimination-chamber/>

Feel The No: Update On Naomi's WWE Status (And It's Not Looking Good).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/feel-the-no-update-on-naomis-wwe-status-and-its-not-looking-good/>

Set Your Clock: AEW Rampage Set For Time Change Due To Special NBA Coverage.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/set-clock-aew-rampage-set-time-change-due-special-nba-coverage/>

WATCH: Jericho Hausen Is Born (And It's AMAZING)!

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-jerichohausen-born-amazing/>

He's Gone: WWE Announces Suspension For AEW Star Over Altercation With Shawn Michaels.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-gone-wwe-announces-suspension-aew-star-altercation-shawn-michaels/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Another WWE Hall Of Famer To Return, Team With Lita/Becky Lynch.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-another-wwe-hall-famer-return-team-lita-extreme-rules/>

It's On The Way: WWE Makes Huge Summerslam Announcement.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/way-wwe-makes-huge-summerslam-announcement/>

BREAKING: Jerry Lawler Hospitalized After "Serious" Medical

Issue.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/breaking-jerry-lawler-hospitalized-serious-medical-issue/>

He's Done? WWE Hall Of Fame Says He Won't Wrestle Again.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-done-wwe-hall-fame-says-wont-wrestle/>

WATCH: Long Time Tag Team Violently Splits On NXT.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-long-time-tag-team-violently-splits-nxt/>

Back Soon: Monday Night Raw Star Taking Break From WWE TV.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/back-soon-monday-night-raw-star-taking-break-wwe-tv/>

Please Don't Be Bad: WWE Star May Have Suffered An Injury This Week On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/please-dont-bad-wwe-star-may-suffered-injury-week-monday-night-raw/>

Working On It: Update On WWE's WrestleMania 39 World Title Plans.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/working-update-wwes-wrestlemania-39-world-title-plans/>

**As always, hit up the comments section to chat about what is going on and [get on the Wrestling Rumors Facebook page.](#)**

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# NXT – February 7, 2023: Eh, They've Got Time

## NXT

Date: February 7, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're done with Vengeance Day and just shy of two months away from Stand & Deliver. It looks like we have a title match set up, as Carmelo Hayes stared down Bron Breakker, who retained the NXT Title in the main event. That should give us a clear path to Los Angeles so let's get to it.

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

We open with the long recap of Vengeance Day.

Here are Trick Williams and Carmelo Hayes to open things up. Williams talks about how Hayes turned seer Apollo Crews into Stevie Wonder before Hayes brags about his win too. Hayes knows his destiny and there is one man waiting for him. Cue JD McDonagh to cut him off and say Hayes is entitled. While Hayes wants a private room at the club, McDonagh sends people to the emergency room. The match is made for later.

Fallon Henley isn't happy that Kiana James cheated to win the titles and insists on a rematch. James isn't sure, so Henley says they'll talk about James possibly cheating on Brooks Jensen. Before they can get to that, it's time for a surprise party in their dressing room.

We look at Grayson Waller interrupting Shawn Michaels' post Vengeance Day media call, earning a week's suspension as a result.

Sol Ruca vs. Zoey Stark

They run the ropes to start until Ruca sends her outside. Back in and Stark grabs the rope and throws a big forearm to take over. Ruca can't roll out of a cravate but she can flip over into a sunset flip for two on Stark. A running dropkick sends Stark into the corner and there's a forward flip splash. Stark superkicks her to the apron and pulls her back in for the flipping knee to the face and the pin at 3:43.

**Rating:** C. This didn't have much time to go anywhere but it is fun to watch Ruca move around in the ring. She has a different movement to her and it shows off her athleticism. At the same time, seeing her lose was a bit surprising, as she has been on a bit of a roll. That being said, Stark is a bigger deal and Ruca beating her would have been a big upset.

Post match the beatdown stays on but Ruca manages a Sol Smasher to leave Stark laying.

We go to the surprise party, where Kiana James doesn't want to talk about the Brooks Jensen thing. Pretty Deadly, looking a bit disheveled, come in, saying they haven't slept since Vengeance Day. They blame Chase U and a match is set for tonight (with Chase swearing included).

#### Dabba-Kato vs. Dante Chen

Chops, faceplant, shrugging off Chen's chops, sitout chokebomb to finish Chen at 2:40. Kato sold way more than he should have there.

Post match Kato promises to break Apollo Crews.

Earlier today, Diamond Mine was regrouping after their loss to Indus Sher last week. Alba Fyre and Isla Dawn came in to mock them, setting up a match later.

Roxanne Perez is happy with keeping her title but Katana Chance and Kayden Carter are upset about their title loss. Perez is going to make a phone call and get a partner.

## Isla Dawn vs. Tatum Paxley

Alba Fyre is here too. Paxley slugs away to start but Dawn knees her in the chest and hits a running Meteora for two. Back up and Paxley slugs away to little avail, with Dawn hitting something like a Nightmare On Helm Street for the pin at 2:58.

Post match Dawn and Fyre tease the beatdown but Ivy Nile runs in for a save. Why Dawn and Fyre, the latter of whom had a baseball bat, ran off isn't clear.

Video on JD McDonagh vs. Carmelo Hayes.

## JD McDonagh vs. Carmelo Hayes

Trick Williams is here too and it's a feeling out process to start. McDonagh seems to taunt Williams and the pace picks up, with McDonagh sending him into the corner. A faceplant puts Hayes down and McDonagh drops him ribs first across the top as we take a break. Back with McDonagh sending him into the corner and hitting a standing Spanish Fly for two.

Hayes grabs a cutter for two and a spinning faceplant gets the same. We hit the crossface but McDonagh makes the ropes. A Codebreaker gives Hayes two more but McDonagh headbutts him down. Cue the returning Ilja Dragunov to take out Williams though and a rollup finishes McDonagh at 13:17.

**Rating:** C. McDonagh stopped being interested a long time ago and that was on full display here. Hayes feels like the hot new heel and McDonagh feels like a remnant of the 2.0 days. Hayes winning via a distraction finish was even weirder, as they were both down when the whole thing happened. Not a bad match, but Hayes is heading to Stand & Deliver and this was an annoying pit stop for him.

Post match Dragunov teases going after Hayes but jumps McDonagh instead.



Thea Hail comes up to Tiffany Stratton and they get in an argument over whether Chase U is cool or tacky. Hail goes on a rant and tells her to suck it but gets pulled off by Ava Raine.

Back at the party, Brooks Jensen is ready for Valentine's Day with Kiana James, so Fallon Henley can't bring herself to say anything.

### Lyra Valkyria vs. Valentina Feroz

Wendy Choo is here with Feroz. Valkyria takes Feroz down without much trouble to start as Elektra Lopez comes out to watch. Feroz gets in a shot of her own so Lopez throws her some brass knuckles. Valkyria is back up with a pair of kicks to the head for the pin at 2:44.

We see Wes Lee coming back home after Vengeance Day and meeting his wife at the airport. It's a rather emotional moment for him because he has worked so hard and is going to keep the title as long as he can. This was rather well done and a more personal look at Lee.

Lee is fired up and wants a challenge. Tony D'Angelo and Stacks come in to say they want payment for helping him against Dijak. That's cool with Lee, who is having an Open Challenge for the title next week.

Tyler Bate wants Grayson Waller next week.

### Stacks vs. Odyssey Jones

Tony D'Angelo is here too. Jones throws Stacks around to start and the size is already crushing him. A huge slam plants Stacks and he has to roll outside for an early breather. Back in and Stacks gets in a DDT to rock Jones for a change, setting up a running forearm to do it again. Stacks hits a Stomp for the (somewhat surprising) pin at 5:14.

**Rating:** C-. That's quite the surprise as Jones has seemed to

be getting something of a push, only to lose clean here. Stacks is seemingly getting a bit of a push of his own and I've heard worse ideas. I'm not sure what that means for D'Angelo, but they're trying something new and that's often a good thing. The match wasn't so much, but at least they seem to be going somewhere.

Roxanne Perez has a partner for next week: Meiko Satomura.

### Pretty Deadly vs. Chase U

Thea Hail isn't here as she is busy being kidnapped. Pretty Deadly is barely functioning here and Hudson grabs Prince for an early headlock. Wilson comes in and tries to walk off but Chase brings him back in for a tie up in the ropes. Prince is sent face first into Wilson's feet as the one sidedness continues. They go outside with Hudson missing a charge into the steps and we take a break.

Back with Chase coming in to clean house but an assisted gutbuster takes him down. Hudson makes the save and it's the Spelling Stomps to Prince for two. Cue a screaming Thea Hail, holding her knee, with Hudson grabbing her to see what's wrong. The distraction lets Spilled Milk finish Chase at 9:24.

**Rating:** C. And yes, Chase loses again. Losing to Pretty Deadly is one thing, but if this leads to them losing to Schism, I'm not sure where NXT has been. At the same time, Hudson is getting to be really good as the hot tag man and Chase is still almost as over as anyone else in NXT. Just let the team win something, please.

Hank Walker wants to take Wes Lee's open challenge next week but Charlie Dempsey comes in. Drew Gulak thinks Walker is ready for a rematch with Dempsey, who implies Gulak cheated to beat him.

It's time for Ding Dong Hello, with Bayley (arm in a sling) ranting about Lita showing up and costing her last night. The

guests are Toxic Attraction, who wipe their feet coming in. They get straight to the argument over who cost who at Vengeance Day, with Jacy saying that Gigi was dressed like a “hobo who banged a Chuckie doll”.

Bayley thinks the split is coming but wonders what happens to both of them after that happens. That’s enough for the two of them to agree that there is strength in numbers, ala Damage Ctrl, so maybe they should go after the Tag Team Titles. Like...the WWE Women’s Tag Team Titles. Bayley says calm down and they hug it out, only to have Jayne drop her. Dolin gets sent into the door and Jayne stands tall to end the show. That was a way to go, though Toxic Attraction moving up was a better option.

**Overall Rating:** C. I wasn’t feeling this show as much this week, but maybe that’s just due to taking a big breath after their special show. We still have several weeks before Stand & Deliver so there is still a long time to get things going. What matters is that they didn’t completely bomb here and what we got was a passable enough show, but it didn’t have anything that you need to see.

### Results

Zoey Stark b. Sol Ruca – Flipping knee to the face

Dabba-Kato b. Dante Chen – Sitout chokebomb

Carmelo Hayes b. JD McDonagh – Rollup

Lyra Valkyria b. Valentina Feroz – Kick to the head

Stacks b. Odyssey Jones – Stomp

Chase U b. Pretty Deadly – Spilled Milk to Chase

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# Monday Night Raw – February 6, 2023: Ok I'm In

## Monday Night Raw

Date: February 6, 2023

Location: Amway Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Kevin Patrick, Corey Graves

We are less than two weeks away from Elimination Chamber and that means it is time to start getting more qualifying matches out of the way. In addition to that though, we have a cage match between Bayley and Becky Lynch which should be a heck of a showdown. That should be enough but Cody Rhodes will be somewhere as well. Let's get to it.

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

Here are Edge and Beth Phoenix for a chat, but first we see a clip of Edge quitting at Extreme Rules to save Beth from a Conchairto, which happened anyway. Then they returned at Elimination Chamber, where they took out Judgment Day again. In the arena, Edge talks about how he wanted Judgment Day to be about finding new talent. We hear about the members of the team but then everything fell apart. The team attacked Edge so

here is their golf clap. Fans: "YOU STILL GOT IT!" Edge: "I never lost it!"

Beth wants to get the fight on but here is Judgment Day, minus Rhea Ripley, to interrupt. Dominik threatens prison violence, just like he used on Rey Mysterio, and Damian Priest talks about qualifying for the Money...er, Elimination Chamber, to get his US Title back. Edge doesn't want to hear this and suggests that Dominik isn't that tough. Beth wants to get her hands on Rhea, so the mixed tag challenge is thrown out for Elimination Chamber. Game on, and so is the fight, with the Street Profits running in. The Glam Slam drops Dominik.

### Elimination Chamber: Angelo Dawkins vs. Damian Priest

Everyone is gone from ringside and we're joined in progress. They head outside with Priest being thrown over the announcers' table. Back in and Priest hits the toss suplex for two but Dawkins fires off the right hands. Priest slams him on the floor again and we take a break. Back with Dawkins hitting an exploder suplex for two and going up top.

Priest pulls him down into a Downward Spiral for two but the Silencer drops Priest again. A top rope Swanton gives Dawkins two but Priest is back up to kick Dawkins in the head. South Of Heaven is plants Dawkins down rather hard and sends Priest on to the Chamber title shot at 11:00.

**Rating:** C+. This was a match where there wasn't much doubt but Dawkins was putting in the efforts to make the most of it. The Profits are already starting to get their singles pushes and they are slowly getting better in both areas. Dawkins getting a singles run of his own would have been a bit much over a former champion, but he certainly did better than I would have expected.

Adam Pearce welcomes the Maximum Male Models to Raw but gets interrupted by Chelsea Green. She isn't happy with the BELGIAN chocolates she got last week when she wanted Swiss. Therefore,

Pearce either needs to get it right or she'll get him fired with one phone call. Green: "K thanks bye."

We look at Sami Zayn jumping Roman Reigns on Smackdown but getting beaten down again. Their match at Elimination Chamber is set.

### Baron Corbin vs. Dexter Lumis

Johnny Gargano is here with Lumis and JBL is here with Corbin, who takes Lumis down with a chinlock to start. Some elbows to the back of the head set up another chinlock. Lumis fights up with a belly to back suplex but he can't Silence Corbin. A missed charge lets Lumis hit the Silence for the pin at 3:16.

**Rating:** C-. Yeah this still didn't work and I'm not particularly surprised. Corbin has lost all kinds of steam and Lumis is much better before and after the bell than in between them. The match was rather dull and it wouldn't surprise me to see Corbin taking a bigger backseat in the future, as this stuff with JBL just isn't working.

We look back at Becky Lynch being attacked in the cage two weeks ago, then attacking Damage Ctrl to even things up a bit.

Lynch is ready to face Bayley inside the cage here in Orlando, where it all began. Bayley made this personal when she brought in Becky's family so tonight, it is time to play her last card.

We look at the Braveheart trailer from Wrestlemania XXI.

Here is Brock Lesnar (high fiving fans, which I don't think I've ever seen him do before) for a chat. Lesnar is glad to be here and asks if anyone saw the Royal Rumble. He didn't like it because Bobby Lashley tossed him out. Lesnar wasn't here last week because he had to get his mind right. Last week he couldn't go hunting or ice fishing but all he could think about was Bobby Lashley. To make it even worse, Lashley ruined

his steak dinner and his, ahem, time with his wife. Well, maybe after four or five hours after his time with his wife started that is.

Lesnar pulls out a contract for a match with Lashley at Elimination Chamber so he wants Lashley out here for a signing. Cue Lashley to recap their feud and he thinks they need to do a third match on his terms. His team is going to look at the contract and thinks Lesnar should understand. F5ing ensues. You knew the match was happening either at Elimination Chamber or at Wrestlemania so this opens some doors for Wrestlemania.

Dexter Lumis has drawn a picture of the Gargano Family, including Nikki Cross looking on. Cross is behind them and runs off.

#### Elimination Chamber Qualifying Match: Carmella vs. Candice LeRae vs. Mia Yim vs. Piper Niven

One fall to a finish and Carmella bails to the floor to start. Back in and Niven uses the power to take over, including crushing all three at once for some near falls. Niven throws Carmella outside and poses as we take a break. We come back with Yim and LeRae double teaming Niven down.

Niven is back up with a headbutt to Yim but LeRae hits a missile dropkick into a middle rope moonsault for two. Carmella comes back in and stomps away on LeRae in the corner, setting up a Cannonball From Niven. Carmella kicks Niven to the floor and rolls LeRae up for the pin at 9:43.

**Rating:** C. So LeRae needs the win, whatever Yim is being called this week needs a win, Niven is back as the force who needs a win, but the right answer is Carmella, who is the same thing she was before she left for months. Carmella is going to be cannon fodder in the Chamber, which is the case for more than one person in there. Maybe they should get someone a little more interesting, but why do that when you can have

Carmella?

JBL quits on Baron Corbin for being such a screwup. Corbin promises he can do better but JBL walks away anyway. Well points for pulling the plug on a bad idea, but odds are we are going to be seeing more Corbin because of course we are. Sidenote: MVP can be seen talking to Shelton Benjamin and Cedric Alexander in the back.

Piper Niven goes after Candice LeRae in the back but Mia Yim makes the save.

### Cedric Alexander/Shelton Benjamin vs. Alpha Academy

MVP is here with Cedric and Shelton. Cedric and Gable go to a wrestle off to start with Gable taking him down without much trouble. Otis and Shelton come in with Otis sending him hard into the corner. Shelton gets away and brings in Cedric to clean house in a hurry. The Neuralizer sends Gable outside, where he catches a charging Cedric in an exploder suplex. Back in and Gable hits a top rope headbutt for two as everything breaks down. Gable misses a moonsault though and it's a Lumbar Check for the pin at 4:54.

**Rating:** C+. Sure why not. The Hurt Business worked well in its day and it's not like Benjamin and Alexander have anything else going on. Put them back together and let them see if the magic is still there. I'll take it over some lame comedy team and MVP can make almost anything work.

We look back at the returning Rick Boogs beating Miz in an impromptu match last week.

Miz swears revenge on Boogs, who comes out of Adam Pearce's office. Pearce pokes his head out to hear Miz run his mouth, setting up a rematch for next week. With that gone, Chelsea Green pops in and demands an opponent right now or she'll call Pearce's manager.



## Chelsea Green vs. Asuka

The rest of the women in the Elimination Chamber are here as Green jumps Asuka to start. The lifting Downward Spiral plants Asuka but Green stops to yell at everyone else on the floor. The distraction lets Asuka come back with a bunch of strikes, setting up a double arm crank for the tap at 2:23.

Post match we get the big staredown but here is Bianca Belair to ask who is going to win the Chamber. She knows what it means and wishes them all luck, because she'll be waiting at Wrestlemania.

Here is Cody Rhodes for a chat. Rhodes talks about how we are on the Road To Wrestlemania, but first of all, we have a special night for Sami Zayn in his hometown. Cody wishes him luck, but here is Paul Heyman to interrupt. Heyman is here on behalf of Roman Reigns to congratulate Cody on winning the men's Royal Rumble. We get a polite handshake and Cody calls him Mr. Heyman before wanting to pull the curtain back.

Cody wants to talk about a moment in 2000, when Dusty Rhodes got a call to work for ECW. Heyman wanted Dusty in ECW to face Steve Corino with promised of great pay, which he received. That run gave Dusty his confidence back and Cody thanks him. Then when Cody was here before, Heyman showed Cody the way so thank you again. Heyman is a bit emotional and talks about how far of a road this has been for Cody. Now though, Cody is trying to take away from Roman Reigns, which makes Heyman wonder how Cody will handle the pressure.

Right down the road from here is the WWE Performance Center, where Dusty Rhodes trained and prepared the top stars of this generation, including Reigns himself. What Cody didn't do is prep Cody. As a father, Heyman might have wanted Cody to make it on his own (Cody seems to be fine with that) and make it as Cody Rhodes, not Dusty's son.

Heyman talks about how much he loved Dusty, and in their last

conversation, Dusty said Cody was his favorite son....but Roman Reigns was the son he always wanted. Cody gets in Heyman's face and says he was just trying to win a title. Now Reigns is going to pay for Heyman making it personal when Cody takes the titles...personally.

Oh yeah this was awesome and they managed to make me more interested in seeing Cody vs. Reigns than they were before. As Cody said, he was just in this to win a title, and now he has something personal to fight about. That has been lacking in the feud, while Sami vs. Reigns has been entirely personal. I don't know if this makes it more interesting than Sami vs. Reigns, but it cut the gap down fast.

#### Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Elias vs. Montez Ford

Austin Theory is on commentary. Elias shoulders him down to start and grabs a chinlock but Ford is right back up with a dropkick. Theory doesn't like us talking about anything but him as Elias sends Ford outside. We take a break and come back with Elias pulling him off the top and countering a hurricanrana into a sitout powerbomb. Ford fights up and hits a high crossbody, setting up the clotheslines to keep Elias in trouble. Elias gets sent outside for a heck of a flip dive, followed by the frog splash for the pin and the spot at 10:14.

**Rating:** C. The Ford singles push has seemed to be on the horizon for months now and maybe this is the first step on the way there. Ford can absolutely hang in a singles match and now he has a US Title shot on pay per view. He does need to (and won't) win but just being in the match is something noteworthy. That athleticism can't be ignored and this should be a great boost for his career.

Post match Seth Rollins pops up to take out Theory, including the Stomp on the floor.

#### Becky Lynch vs. Bayley

In a cage with the rest of Damage Ctrl at ringside. Lynch goes after her to start but gets sent into the cage to cut her off. Bayley starts going up but a dropkick to the cage brings her back down. They go up top with Bayley knocking her down, setting up the top rope elbow for two.

We take a break and come back with both of them going up again and kicking away. Lynch knocks her down for a crash and a near fall but Bayley gets in a whip to the cage. Bayley grabs a kneebar so Becky crawls for the door before sending Bayley face first into the corner. They go up top at the same time again and slug it out until a super Bayley to Belly plants Becky for two.

Instead of going for the door, Bayley tries to climb out, allowing Becky to get up there and catch her. Becky throws Bayley down but Iyo Sky is right up there to cut her off too. Dakota Kai throws in a crutch....and Lita of all people is here. She takes out Sky with a Twist of Fate on the floor, slams the door on Bayley's head and sets up Becky's Manhandle Slam for the win at 15:07.

**Rating:** B. The Lita stuff was a surprise, but what mattered here was having two top stars having what felt like a main event match. It was the kind of a match that was the main event of the show rather than the last match on the card and they made it work well. I was into this and now I'm wondering where the Lita connection is going. One more match on the big stage, say against Bayley, would be great to see and that might be where we're going.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This is another show that was good on its own but would have been great at two hours. If you could cut out a little bit here and there and get it trimmed down, there is almost nothing bad to be found. They advanced the Elimination Chamber card, they had a surprise at the end and they had an instant classic exchange between Cody and Heyman. WWE is in a very good place right now and if they can keep it

up through Wrestlemania, we could be in for a classic.

### Results

Damian Priest b. Angelo Dawkins – South Of Heaven

Dexter Lumis b. Baron Corbin – Silence

Carmella b. Piper Niven, Mia Yim and Candice LeRae – Cannonball to LeRae

Shelton Benjamin/Cedric Alexander b. Alpha Academy – Lumbar Check to Gable

Asuka b. Chelsea Green – Double armbar

Montez Ford b. Elias – Frog splash

Becky Lynch b. Bayley – Manhandle Slam

WWE, 2023, Monday Night Raw, Edge, Beth Phoenix, Judgment Day, Maximum Male Models, Chelsea Green, Angelo Dawkins, Damian Priest, JBL, Baron Corbin, Johnny Gargano, Becky Lynch, Dexter Lumis, Candice LeRae, Carmella, Michin, Piper Niven, Nikki Cross, Cedric Alexander, Shelton Benjamin, MVP, Alpha Academy, Miz, Rick Boogs, Asuka, Bianca Belair, Cody Rhodes, Seth Rollins, Montez Ford, Elias, Seth Rollins, Austin Theory, Becky Lynch, Bayley, Damage Ctrl

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