

Daily News Update – May 6, 2022

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[Monday Night Raw – May 2, 2022](#)

[NXT LVL Up – April 29, 2022](#)

[NXT – May 3, 2022 \(Spring Breakin\)](#)

[Dynamite – May 4, 2022](#)

New Stipulation Added To WWE WrestleMania Backlash Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-stipulation-added-ww-e-wrestlemania-backlash-match/>

Until Next Time: AEW Star May Have Departed The Company.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-time-aew-star-may-departed-company/>

WATCH: Missing WWE Star Returns To TV, Teases Alliance With Reformed Character.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/missing-ww-e-star-returns-tv-teases-alliance-reformed-character/>

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Backstage News On Why WWE Released An NXT Star.

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WWE Sends Confusing Message About New Monday Night Raw Star (MINOR Spoiler).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ww-e-sends-confusing-message-new-monday-night-raw-star-minor-spoiler/>

Good News About Future Of Popular Wrestling Series.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE May Be Planning To Turn Roman Reigns.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-ww-e-may-planning-turn-roman-reigns/>

It's Never Too Early: Possible News On 2023 Royal Rumble.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/never-early-possible-news-2023-royal-rumble/>

Watch Your Language: WWE Adds Another Term To The Do Not Use List.

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Potential Bad News For Mustafa Ali's WWE Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/potential-bad-news-mustafa-ali-s-ww-e-future/>

AEW Is Getting Another New Show (And It's A Little Different).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ae-w-getting-another-new-show/>

Channel Changer: WWE Monday Night Raw Was Almost Canceled At One Point,

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/channel-changer-ww-monday-night-raw-almost-canceled-one-point/>

WWE Had Special Plans For A SmackDown Star On Recent Tour.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ww-special-plans-smackdown-star-recent-tour/>

WATCH: Wild, Violent Angle Takes Place After NXT Goes Off The Air.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wild-violent-angle-takes-place-nxt-goes-off-air/>

There Is One Specific Area Where WWE Is Dominating AEW.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-specific-area-ww-dominating-aew/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Planning Yet Another Special Event Later This Year.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-ww-planning-yet-another-special-event-later-year/>

Ouch: NXT Star Injured, Out 6-8 Weeks.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ouch-nxt-star-injured-6-8-weeks/>

(Very Unique) History Has Been Made! Title Change On AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/unique-history-made-title-change-aew-dynamite/>

Set Them Up: New Title Match Set For AEW Double Or Nothing.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/set-new-title-match-set-aew-double-nothing/>

Important Update On Kane's Political Career In Tennessee.

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Hollywood Star Announces He Is Starting His Own Wrestling Promotion.

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VIDEO: CM Punk To Appear In Ongoing Role On TV Drama Series.

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AEW Facing Class Action Lawsuit Over Americans With Disabilities Act.

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Hilarious VIDEO: Randy Orton Hides During SmackDown Lumberjack Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hilarious-video-randy-orton-hides-smackdown-lumberjack-match/>

Serious Problem At This Week's AEW Dynamite Almost Put Show In Danger.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/weeks-aew-dynamite-almost-didnt-make-air-due-power-outage/>

WWE Very Impressed By Appearance Of Former Star.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-impressed-appearance-former-star/>

AEW Star Injured Again, To Miss 6-9 More Months.

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WWE Making Plans For Major Expansions Of Developmental Program.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-making-plans-major-expansions-training-program/>

Run It Back: Two Former WWE Stars Planning Return To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/run-back-two-former-wwe-stars-planning-return-ring/>

How A WrestleMania Match Had Its Time Severely Cut Down.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestlemania-match-time-severely-cut/>

Backstage Speculation On Political Arrangement Between AEW And Impact Wrestling.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/backstage-speculation-political-agreement-aew-impact-wrestling/>

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

New Column: All The Changes

As WWE makes things more complicated than they need to be.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-changes/>

Dynamite – May 4, 2022: Not A Downward Spiral

Dynamite

Date: May 4, 2022

Location: Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

I'm not sure how but we're less than a month away from Double Or Nothing. Last week's show saw the announcement that CM Punk would be challenging Hangman Page for the World Title at the pay per view so at least they have the top match set up pretty far in advance. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Jeff Hardy vs. Bobby Fish

Adam Cole is on commentary and Matt Hardy and Kyle O'Reilly are at ringside. Fish takes him into the corner to start and kicks away at the leg, setting up a dragon screw legwhip onto the other leg. They head outside with another dragon screw legwhip sending Hardy into the barricade and we take a break.

Back with Hardy making a comeback and dropping Fish to go up top. The Swanton is broken up though and it's the super Falcon Arrow to put Hardy down for two. Fish grabs the kneebar but Hardy gets over for the rope. Hardy puts him down again and it's the Swanton to give Hardy the pin at 10:15.

Rating: C. That's about as high as I can go, as the match was

technically fine, but they were both looking old and slow here. Granted that might be because they're both old and slow, though I can always go for someone taking out a knee. Fish banging up Hardy's knee was a good way to explain the slower pace, but it's getting harder to watch Hardy out there.

Post match the Young Bucks come out for a staredown with the Hardys. I don't think that's a big surprise, but the Hardys trying to go at that pace could be rough.

We get a video from William Regal on training the Blackpool Combat Club. Regal talks about how this is about physicality and hurting people, which is what wrestling is. The video includes Regal physically training the team before saying that the Club would rather cut you on the face than stab you, because that is what you will remember. Check this out as it was nearly chilling with Regal sounding so serious about the whole thing. Also note that this is the shortened version, with the whole thing being available on Twitter.

AF0 vs. Blackpool Combat Club

It's Butcher/Blade/Angelico for the AF0 here and the fight starts before the bell. Blade beats on Danielson at the bell before Angelico comes in and gets rolled up for two. Danielson starts on the arm and hands it off to Yuta for the same. The armdrag into an armbar keeps Blade down but it's off to Butcher to take Yuta into the corner.

We take a break and come back with Yuta taking Butcher down so Moxley can come in. A cutter of all things drops Blade (that's a new one from Moxley) and some biting allows Danielson to come back in on Angelico. Stereo chokes keep Butcher and Blade down and set up the triple stomps. Danielson chokes Angelico out for the win at 7:40.

Rating: C+. This needs to be about it for the Club in these nothing matches. They're fun and entertaining, but they're glorified target practice. The good thing is that we should be

getting ready for a bigger match at Double Or Nothing so at least things aren't going to be run into the ground. It's still very fun to see them pounding the stuffing out of people, but it's time to move up.

Jurassic Express is in on Team Taz's challenge for the Tag Team Title match. First though, how about Jungle Boy gets an FTW World Title shot?

Keith Lee and Swerve Strickland are ready for Team Taz as well.

Wardlow vs. ???

Before the match, MJF and Shawn Spears come to the stage to insult Maryland and the opponent is...William Morrissey (better known as Big Cass, or W. Morrissey in Impact), which is the name that was all but guaranteed last week. They start slowly with the power game not getting either very far. Morrissey's running splash in the corner doesn't work but Wardlow's does, only to have Morrissey come back with a big boot.

Wardlow is knocked outside for a posting as we get dueling WE WANT ENZO/NO WE DON'T chants. Back in and the slug it out until Morrissey hits a swinging Boss Man Slam. Morrissey puts him on top but gets knocked down, with Wardlow hitting something like a moonsault while landing on his feet. A one movement Powerbomb Symphony (also known as a powerbomb) finishes Morrissey at 5:29.

Rating: C. This went a bit longer than it needed to but Wardlow surviving a beating and then coming back for the win is all that matters. Wardlow continues to run through monsters, which should mean he can destroy MJF when he gets the chance. Not a bad monster clash here, with Wardlow continuing his roll.

Post match Wardlow isn't being handcuffed and beats up security, leaving MJF with a stunned look on his face. Wardlow

says he wants his release so MJF says they can have a little match. The match is on, but there are going to be some stipulations. Wardlow can hear about those stipulations in a contract signing next week in Long Island.

Toni Storm/Ruby Soho and Britt Baker/Jamie Hayter are ready for their tag match on Rampage. It's the first time a women's match has opened the show, which is another point for Baker. Soho is sick of hearing about Baker and they are counting down the minutes until 5:30 on Friday (special start time).

Here is Hangman Page for a chat. Page talks about his World Title defense against CM Punk at Double Or Nothing and he sees it differently than some do. It would be easy to talk about the two of them having a great match and a classic with a handshake but that isn't what is going to happen.

Page is going to destroy Punk and yells at a fan in a Punk shirt, saying she is going to be running back to the merch stand for a refund. Punk isn't here tonight because he is probably off filming another TV show. If Punk wants a fight, it will be the fight of his life. This was a pretty hard shift from Page and I can go for more of the serious version.

Video on Konosuke Takeshita.

Jay Lethal, Sonjay Dutt and Satnam Singh aren't impressed with DDT Pro's Konosuke Takeshita getting the red carpet treatment. Where is Lethal's red carpet? Lethal throws out the challenge for Rampage.

Santana vs. Chris Jericho

Jericho, now billed as the Wizard, has the rest of the Jericho Appreciation Society while Santana is here alone. Santana isn't waiting and hits a flip dive onto Jericho before the bell. The fight starts on the floor with Santana sending him into the barricade but taking way too long to set up the steps. Instead Jericho grabs the camera, giving us a first

person view of Santana's double middle fingers.

Santana kicks him down and they get inside for the opening bell. Minard grabs Santana's leg and the triangle dropkick puts Santana on the floor and we take a very early break. We come back with Santana hitting the Three Amigos, setting up a top rope splash for two. Jericho is right back with a knockdown into the Walls but Santana makes the rope. The rest of the Society tries to bring in the bat but Santana fights them down and hits a discus lariat for two. A Society distraction lets Jericho get in a low blow though and the Judas Effect finishes for Jericho at 8:58.

Rating: C+. They kept Santana strong here as there is no shame in losing to a much bigger star when said star has a five on one advantage. Santana and Ortiz continue to feel like they should be the breakout stars but it just hasn't clicked yet. A singles match like this is a good start, but AEW needs to follow up on it. Also, ending this team feud already would be a good move because it has started to get old.

Post match the beatdown is on with Ortiz's save being cut off almost immediately.

Samoa Joe is coming for Jay Lethal.

The Gunn Club has gifts for the Acclaimed: SCISSORS! Scissoring ensues. As long as it isn't a running joke, they should be fine.

Here are the Varsity Blonds for a chat. Brian Pillman Jr. talks about how the team has gotten complacent, but that brings him to his father's best friend (and college roommate), Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh. John told him to attack every day, so that is what he is doing tonight. The House of Black is called out and here they come, with the House destroying the Blonds in short order.

Malakai Black comes over to Julia Hart and stares at her

before she is handed a chair. Julia can't bring herself to swing so Black rips the eye patch off...but here is the Death Triangle for the save. This went on WAY too long and we still didn't actually have anything happen. Please just get to the Death Triangle vs. the House of Black already so we can move on to anything else.

Jade Cargill and the Baddies are ready to keep dominating.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Dante Martin vs. Rey Fenix

Julia Hart is still here as Fenix kicks Martin down to start. Martin is sent outside and we take an early break. Back with Fenix hitting a middle rope reverse Spanish Fly (kind of making it into a flipping Russian legsweep) but Martin kicks him down again. Commentary isn't happy with how long Martin is taking to stay on Fenix, allowing Fenix to hurricanrana him to the floor. Back in and Fenix hits a pop up cutter for two, setting up another super reverse Spanish Fly. This time they both land on their feet, setting up Martin's poisonrana. The Nosedive misses though and Fenix grabs an over the shoulder piledriver for the pin at 9:38.

Rating: B. This was more exciting than pretty much anything else on the show and they did exactly what you would have expected from them. They flew through the match with one big spot after another (meaning we didn't need a break here) and that's all they should have tried here. Fenix winning makes sense but Martin looked good in defeat. Very fun match and the kind of stuff you knew was coming when it was announced.

We finally have Owen Hart Foundation brackets:

Rey Fenix

Kyle O'Reilly

Samoa Joe

JOKER

Jeff Hardy
Darby Allin

Adam Cole
Dax Harwood

Darby Allin and Sting know Allin's match with Jeff Hardy will be special.

Here is Thunder Rosa for a chat. Everyone has a story and they all have good and bad people. She is the undisputed Women's Champion and has worked hard to get here. Now she is the boss of this division and wants the best competition in the world. She drove eight hours to see the wrestler who made her what she is today and calls out the #1 contender, Serena Deeb. Cue Deeb, who thinks they can make this the best women's division in the entire world. Deeb says Rosa knows she is on another level and it is time for her to win the title to show the world. The title match is set for Double Or Nothing after a fairly stumbling exchange.

Here's what's coming up on various shows.

John Silver is ready for CM Punk next week.

Ring Of Honor Women's Title: Deonna Purrazzo vs. Mercedes Martinez

Champion vs. Interim Champion for the undisputed title. Feeling out process to start with neither of them being able to get very far. Purrazzo is looking frustrated early on as we take a break. Back with the forearm exchange with Purrazzo getting the better of things until a fisherman's buster gives Martinez two. Purrazzo can't get the Fujiwara armbar and it's a double clothesline to put both of them down. The armbar is blocked again and this time Martinez pulls her into a surfboard dragon sleeper for the tap and the title at 10:38.

Rating: C-. I'm really not sure what to think of this, but

these two were put in about as bad of a position as they could have been. Purrazzo is an Impact wrestler and Martinez, while in AEW, is hardly a regular. They were fighting over another company's title in an AEW main event. In short, the fans came here to see AEW, not another company's wrestler fighting for a third company's title.

It was also an ice cold match as there was no hype for it on AEW TV and the limited promo time they had coming in was "I'm going to be the champ/No I'm going to be the champ". The match might not have been great on its own, but they were put in a no win situation and the crowd being so eerily silent told you everything you needed to know about how this went.

Martinez celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This was not the strongest edition of Dynamite, as aside from the Fenix vs. Martin match and Page's (short) promo, there wasn't much to see. It felt like a show that was designed to fill in two hours with the main event in particular being a letdown. I wasn't feeling this one, though odds are the NBA and NHL games are going to put a big hit in the audience. Maybe they took the week off as a result, but it didn't make this much easier to get through. The good thing about AEW though: I have every reason to believe that this is a one off and not a downward trend, which is more than most companies can say.

Results

Jeff Hardy b. Bobby Fish – Swanton Bomb

Blackpool Combat Club b. AFO – Triangle choke to Angelico

Wardlow b. William Morrissey – Powerbomb

Chris Jericho b. Santana – Judas Effect

Rey Fenix b. Dante Martin – Over the shoulder piledriver

Mercedes Martinez b. Deonna Purrazzo – Dragon sleeper

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NXT – May 3, 2022 (Spring Breakin): That's How NXT Can Be

NXT

Date: May 3, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph

It's Spring Breakin, which is somehow a name that has never been used before. It's one of those big time shows that has a pair of title matches included, capped off by Joe Gacy challenging Bron Breaker for the NXT Title. The show is looking stacked enough to be good so let's get to it.

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

Pretty Deadly is by the pool to welcome us to the show, while admiring their Tag Team Titles. After running down the card, they jump into the pool and we're ready to go.

North American Title: Cameron Grimes vs. Solo Sikoa vs. Carmelo Hayes

Grimes is defending and Trick Williams is here with Hayes. Sikoa and Grimes take turns chopping Hayes and a heck of a backdrop sends Hayes bailing to the floor. Back in and Hayes is hiptossed into Sikoa but pulls him in for a hurricanrana. Hayes hits a springboard clothesline on Sikoa but Grimes takes him down, setting up a high crossbody to Sikoa for two of his own. Back up and Hayes takes both of them down as we go to a break.

We come back with Sikoa headbutting Hayes down but the backsplash hits raised knees. Hayes goes up but Sikoa catches him, only to have Grimes charge at both of them. The Tower of Doom gives us a HOLY CENSORED (at least some of the time) chant before switching to the more family friendly THIS IS AWESOME. It's time for the three way forearm off with Sikoa getting the better of things, setting up a double running Umaga Attack in the same corner. Grimes gets powerbombed onto Hayes but the Superfly Splash is broken up.

Grimes hurricanranas both of them at the same time and hits a poisonrana for two on Hayes. The Cave In is countered into something like a Codebreaker to give Hayes two of his own but Sikoa superkicks Hayes out of the air. Sikoa hits the Superfly Splash on Grimes for a VERY close near fall, which looked like three as Hayes might have been a split second late with the save. With that not working, Sikoa loads up the Samoan drop on Hayes but Grimes comes in off the middle rope with the Cave In for the retaining pin on Sikoa at 14:09.

Rating: B. That near fall was crazy close and they might have let it be close enough for it to be a pin. They were rolling near the end of this though and I was way into the thing, which isn't something you get to say very often in NXT. It was also something of a coming out party for Sikoa and he has a future around here. Great match and they started very hot this

week.

Mandy Rose went tanning earlier today but Wendy Choo runs in (wearing full costume of course) to sabotage things. The rest of Toxic Attraction shows up and finds her completely burned, but they're going to go to the beach without her. Rose screams at the sight of herself in the mirror.

Nathan Frazer can't believe he's here and it's like every birthday and Christmas rolled into one.

Roderick Strong gives the Creed Brothers a pep talk at Diamond Mine practice. He also makes it clear that he's in charge of the team, which doesn't sit well with the Creeds.

Indi Hartwell is sad that...well she doesn't say, but she is touching her empty ring finger. Here is Duke Hudson to tease kissing her, but they both snap backwards, with Hartwell saying "oh h*** no" and Hudson saying "you wish". Ok then, though it's not like they have anything else for these two to do.

Nathan Frazer vs. Grayson Waller

Feeling out process to start with Frazer grabbing a headlock but Waller fights up. A dropkick sends him to the floor though, only to run up the aisle before Frazer can dive. They slug it out in the aisle before heading back to the ring for more slugging. Waller breaks up Frazer's dive and hits a slide underneath the ropes for a right hand on the floor. A beach ball is added, which Waller tears apart to become my (and Cesaro's) new favorite as we take a break.

Back with Frazer making the comeback and knocking Waller off the apron. The suicide dive drops Waller again and a superkick cuts off the rolling Stunner. A superkick gives Frazer two but Waller punches him down into the corner. Frazer goes up but gets knocked down so Waller heads up as well. Cue Andre Chase (who has been seen in the crowd throughout the match) with an

air horn for a distraction to knock Waller off the top. Frazer's Phoenix splash finishes Waller off at 12:38.

Rating: C+. Waller looked better here, as he feels like someone who knows how to be a villain. On the other hand, you have Frazer, who did look good, but felt like someone who is a more polished version of someone we've seen a dozen times. Frazer feels like a very modern wrestler while Waller felt like someone with some upward potential. Neither looked bad, but Waller was better.

Fallon Henley is in the Breakout Tournament and loves horses, including her own, Luna. These vignettes are good as they tell you a little something about the women to give you an introduction. The fact that Henley has been around for months makes it a little late, but I'll take what I can get.

We get the sitdown meeting between Legado del Fantasma and Tony D'Angelo and company. Santos Escobar respects him but not as a businessman. They both want the same things, but argue over who controls the NXT pie. Eventually they agree to peace though and share a toast. The mafia leaves and Escobar says start the car, which seems to have some hidden meaning. This is one of those things fans are probably going to love or hate without much in between ground.

The Viking Raiders are ready to hurt the Creed Brothers...but Pretty deadly interrupts to say they want to see the Raiders smash the Creeds. Just remember though: the Creeds are damaged goods. The Raiders warn them over the interruption and threaten to change their focus, which gets Pretty Deadly to back off.

Joe Gacy warns us of what happens if he doesn't win the NXT Title tonight. He is change.

Nikkita Lyons/Cora Jade vs. Natalya/Lash Legend

Legend throws Jade into the corner to start but misses a

charge so Jade can slug away. Natalya comes in and trades some rollups with Jade for two each. Lyons comes in and gets headlocked to the mat but Natalya is right back up. The wristlock doesn't work well for Lyons and it's off to Legend to take over. Legend hits a Cactus Clothesline on Lyons and the partners are outside to check on both of them as we take a break.

Back with Natalya dropping Jade for two more and a snap suplex gets the same. The chinlock doesn't last long so Legend comes in for some shouts to the ribs in the corner. Jade fights up (as Natalya very clearly told her to on camera) and gets over for the tag to Lyons. House is cleaned, including the running Blockbuster for two on Natalya. Legend comes back in to take Lyons down for some knees to the ribs but Natalya kicks her down by mistake. Lyons gets over to Jade, who comes in with a top rope backsplash for the pin at 13:24.

Rating: C. That's on a bit of a sliding scale as Legend is not ready for anything complicated yet, but this was a mostly watchable match with Natalya being the glue to hold it together. Other than that, you have Jade bouncing around and Lyons adding some charisma. It's not great or even very good, but this felt like it could have been a disaster and was completely watchable.

Tatum Paxley likes powerlifting, and presumably winning the Breakout Tournament.

Toxic Attraction goes to the beach, where Wendy Choo and Roxanne Perez steal their shoes and car. To recap, Choo has injured Mandy Rose and then stole a car. I'm supposed to cheer for her because....reasons?

Creed Brothers vs. Viking Raiders

The Raiders start fast and take both Creeds down, setting up the Viking Experience for two on Julius. Brutus fights back up and hits a release gutwrench suplex on Erik. That doesn't last

long as Ivar takes both of them down and we go to a break. Back with Brutus suplexing his way out of a headlock and bringing in Julius to slam Erik. An exchange of suplexes gives Ivar two and he drops Erik onto Brutus to make it worse.

Ivar's middle rope splash gives Erik two because the Creeds like to kick out of a lot of stuff. Ivar goes up again but Julius runs the corner for a top rope superplex. Erik is back up for the belly to back suplex/top rope legdrop combination. Brutus and Ivar fall to the floor, leaving Roderick Strong to run in for a cheap shot on Erik (Julius didn't see him). The basement lariat finishes for Julius at 12:52.

Rating: C. I'm getting a bit over the Creeds being able to kick out of everything, but the ending seems like a way for them to break away from Strong and end the Diamond Mine for good. The Creeds are all but guaranteed to win the titles soon and them crushing Pretty Deadly should be good. As usual, the main roster contingent did their jobs well here, with a win over the Raiders feeling like an accomplishment for the Creeds.

Post match the Creeds see the replay and aren't happy with Strong.

Santos Escobar and AJ Galante meet in the parking lot. Then Escobar jumps him and the rest of Legado kidnaps him, because that's what you do in the NXT parking lot.

Alba Fyre likes fire.

Earlier this week, Brooks Jensen is told that normally his injury recovery time is about 10-12 weeks, but since the muscles in his hand are so strong (ahem), it will be 6-8 weeks.

Bron Breaker throws a comically large on/off switch to start his music.

NXT Title: Joe Gacy vs. Bron Breaker

Breaker, in apparently the same singlet that Rick Steiner wore to the first Raw (ignore that it is a different color and design), is defending. Gacy gets powered to the floor to start but comes back in with a cheap shot. The chinlock goes on for a bit before another shot knocks Breaker to the floor.

We take a break and come back with Breaker getting pulled off the middle rope, allowing Gacy to flip himself upside down in the corner (as Bray Wyatt rolls his eyes somewhere). An armbar doesn't last long as Breaker is back up and drops him onto the top. Some shoulders set up a running clothesline but the overhead belly to belly is blocked. Gacy hits a reverse DDT for two but Breaker is right back with a Steiner Bulldog for two.

Breaker misses a charge into the corner but stops himself (in a nice call back to the Dolph Ziggler feud), setting up a Frankensteiner. A not great looking belly to belly gives Breaker two but he misses a charge, allowing Gacy to hit an Alabama Slam. Gacy's sitout powerbomb gets two more but the handspring lariat misses. Breaker spears him down to retain the title at 11:02.

Rating: D+. Yeah this missed and it missed pretty hard. Gacy never felt like a threat and they were on different pages at times. I'm still not sure why Gacy is seen as some kind of a major player in NXT as he is turning into more and more of a Bray Wyatt knockoff every day. This whole feud has felt like a major waste of time for Breaker and now he needs to move on to almost anyone else.

Post match Breaker poses but two masked men pop up on the apron behind him...and that's the show, with Breaker not seeing them.

Overall Rating: C. This show started off well and then hit a hard wall, mainly around the time they started focusing on the

goofy stuff. That's what drives me crazy about NXT: they have the talent and the ability to put on a good show, but then you get around to the stuff they seem to enjoy doing and it all falls apart. You have Perez and Choo as criminals, plus a turf war between the mob and Legado. That stuff is so goofy that it could be fun, but they can't even get that stuff to work right. The first hour was good enough to carry the show, but it was just barely enough to make up for the bad.

Results

Cameron Grimes b. Solo Sikoa and Carmelo Hayes – Middle rope
Cave In to Sikoa

Nathan Frazer b. Grayson Waller – Phoenix splash

Cora Jade/Nikkita Lyons b. Natalya/Lash Legend – Top rope
backsplash to Legend

Creed Brothers b. Viking Raiders – Sliding lariat to Erik

Bron Breaker b. Joe Gacy – Spear

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NXT LVL Up – April 29, 2022: LVL Down

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 29, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

I'm almost looking forward to this show in a way and that should make for an interesting enough week. They're starting to do something a bit differently around here as you see wrestlers debut here before moving up to the main NXT show a week or so later, making this a glorified preview show. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Damon Kemp

Busy week for Kemp, who was on NXT UK yesterday and since the schedule for these shows couldn't possibly have anything nefarious or misleading going on, he must have some jet lag issues. Chen goes for an armbar to start but gets taken to the mat for some easy riding. This prompts a discussion of pretty much any main roster story the fans can think of to avoid talking about the match.

Back up and Chen starts working on the leg to put him in a bit of trouble, including some cranking on the mat. A backslide gives Kemp two but Chen is back with a spinning toehold. The Ric Flair cannonball down onto the leg is countered into a rollup for two and Kemp is back up with a running shoulder.

The running powerslam finishes Chen at 5:13.

Rating: C. The more I see of Kemp, the more I like him. He has some charisma to go with an amateur wrestling background and that is more than you could expect in a situation like his. I could go for more of him, though not so much with Chen, who continues to just be there with little of note about him.

Amari Miller vs. Arianna Grace

Miller is returning from two months off due to an injury and Grace is better known as the daughter of Santino Marella. Miller takes her down with a headlock to start but eventually gets powered down into an armbar. Said armbar keeps Miller down on the arm as we move on to a discussion of the main roster Women's Titles. Back up and Miller hits a running kick to the chest, only to get small packaged to give Grace the pin at 5:15.

Rating: D+. This was as interesting as four and a half minutes of armbars are going to be. I get that they want to push Grace as someone in the Breakout Tournament, though I'd like to believe that she has something more than we got to see here. If nothing else, it is a bit frustrating to see Miller come back and lose after she was starting to get somewhere before her injury.

Respect is shown post match.

Andre Chase vs. Quincy Elliott

Bodhi Hayward is here with Chase. Quincy shoves him into the corner and gives us a hip swivel, followed by a crushing in another corner. Chase swivels his way out of a waistlock but gets run over again, meaning even more swiveling. Back up and for some reason Chase tries a slam, earning himself another knockdown (and a sore back to go with it).

The big splash doesn't even warrant a cover before Quincy hits

a side slam for two. Chase fights up and manages to stagger Quincy, setting up a high crossbody. The spelling stomps set up a failed sunset flip attempt, but Chase grabs the leg to break up more swiveling. A fairly impressive slam finishes for Chase at 6:19.

Rating: C-. I can go for watching Chase for a good while, but Quincy pretty clearly ran out of stuff he knew how to do and started repeating things with about two minutes left. I know WWE likes rushing things, but if you can't make it through a six minute match without repeating that many spots, you might not be ready for TV. The slam was good, though it didn't exactly make up for everything else.

Nigel praises Chase's 13 inch pythons to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was a pretty disappointing show, but the run time continues to be its saving grace. Even if the show isn't very good, it's only not very good for less than half an hour (including ads between matches) so its hard to get that annoyed. Hopefully this was just a one off though, as this was a pretty bad step backwards for the show.

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Monday Night Raw – May 2, 2022: I Have No Idea

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 2, 2022

Location: Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, North Carolina

Commentators: Jimmy Smith, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

It's the go home show for Wrestlemania Backlash and that means it is time for the final push towards the event. Granted after last week's Smackdown, everything has changed again as we have a six man tag between the Bloodline and RKBro/Drew McIntyre. Yeah just a six man, with no titles currently on the line. Let's get to it.

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

Here is the Bloodline to get things going. Paul Heyman handles Roman Reigns' introduction and Reigns himself tells North Carolina to acknowledge him....but RKBro runs in to RK0 the Usos. Cue Drew McIntyre with Angela the sword, leaving Reigns looking worried. The sword is dropped down so McIntyre gets in, with the Usos and RKBro joining them. Referees come down to break up the fight and we take an early break.

Earlier today, Ezekiel met with the Street Profits and had a drink. Kevin Owens (in a Becky Lynch shirt) and Alpha Academy came in to accuse Ezekiel of cheating at the lie detector test. A six man was set up for later.

Street Profits/Ezekiel vs. Kevin Owens/Alpha Academy

And now it's later. Gable gets double flapjacked (with Montez Ford looking like he was trying something else) for an early

two and the armbar goes on. Gable reverses into one of his own before it's off to Otis. The power starts cranking up but a triple dropkick knocks him to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Ford still in trouble and Owens hitting a middle rope moonsault to the legs for two. Ford fights out of a chinlock and scores with an enziguri for the double knockdown. The hot tag brings in Ezekiel to clean house, including a heck of a Stinger Splash. Everything breaks down and Owens trips Ezekiel so Gable can grab a rollup for the pin at 9:54.

Rating: C. I'm not sure why you need to have Ezekiel take the pin here, but I'm sure we needed to protect the Profits more than someone they're trying to present as something. Owens vs. Ezekiel is probably coming next week on Raw with some weird truth stipulation, though I'm still not sure what the endgame is with Ezekiel. That being said, it's more interesting than anything Elias had done in months, so we'll call this an upgrade.

AJ Styles isn't happy with Edge and Damian Priest and he's ready for them at Wrestlemania Backlash.

We look at Sonya Deville trying to cheat Bianca Belair out of the Raw Women's Title last week but not being able to pull it off. After the match, she yelled at Carmella and Zelina Vega for screwing up.

Adam Pearce has been ordered to put Deville into a six woman tag, with Deville saying it should be No Holds Barred. Pearce seems to shoot her down but reminds Deville that she has no executive power.

Veer Mahaan vs. Burt Hanson

Before the match, Hanson says he is scared to death but he has always wanted to compete on Raw in his hometown and now he is making his dream come true. Mahaan throws him around to start and hits the Million Dollar Arm. The Cervical Clutch finishes

at 1:32.

Post match Mahaan puts the Clutch on again in the ropes, allowing commentary to continue saying CERVICAL CLUTCH over and over again.

We look at Edge and Damian Priest taking AJ Styles out.

AJ Styles vs. Damian Priest

If Styles wins, Priest is barred from ringside on Sunday. Before the match, Edge insults the city and the sports teams it doesn't have. Styles comes out to cut them off and they start fast with Priest throwing him around. The chinlock goes on for a bit before AJ fights up and sends him outside. The slingshot forearm connects but Priest is right back up. AJ gets lawn darted into the post and we take an early break.

Back with Styles hitting the torture rack spun into a powerbomb for two. Priest fights him off again and grabs the South Of Heaven chokeslam for two of his own. Styles loads up the Calf Crusher but an Edge distraction breaks it up. That's fine with Styles, who rolls Priest up with a cradle for the pin at 11:00.

Rating: C. The match was pretty cookie cutter for the most part, but what mattered here was getting to the next logical point in the feud. Styles needs some kind of help to deal with the numbers game and getting rid of Priest will be a nice step. At the same time, this opens the door for someone else to join up with Edge and Priest, which opens up some possibilities.

Post match Edge jumps Styles but Finn Balor runs in for the save. That's a good partner for Styles and Too Sweeting ensues.

Cedric Alexander comes up to Omos and MVP for some sucking up. He even has a match with Bobby Lashley tonight to prove

himself, with MVP and Omos saying they'll be watching. Alexander can leave now.

It's time for MizTV, with Miz not being happy about what his guest did last week. Cue Mustafa Ali as his guest, but his music cuts off during his entrance. Then "Must's" microphone doesn't work, even as Miz talks about how the fans forgot about him during his hiatus. Miz: "Please Must, don't go to Twitter and complain." Ali steals the Miz's microphone and says that he goes to the people when he is frustrated, but Miz gets his own mic to work again as Theory interrupts.

Theory has some good news for Miz: he has gone to Vince McMahon and suggested that last week's loss to Ali be stricken from the record books. Ali wants Theory's US Title, and that's fine with Theory, who has gotten Ali a Champions Contenders match tonight. Theory says he doesn't know if Ali can handle the heat, but Ali says if anyone can handle the heat from back there, it's him. That's cool with Theory, so let's make the contenders match a handicap match.

Miz/Theory vs. Mustafa Ali

Joined in progress with Corey Graves daring to accidentally call him AUSTIN theory. A low bridge sends Ali out to the floor and it's Theory getting two off a stomp to the stomach back inside. Ali fights out of a chinlock and sends Miz into the corner, setting up a neckbreaker for two of his own. Theory offers a distraction though and the Skull Crushing Finale gives Miz the pin at 2:52. Well Ali did better than I was expecting: he lasted one week.

Post match Ciampa runs in to jump Ali as well.

Earlier today, Reggie tried to talk Dana Brooke into a honeymoon but they ran into R-Truth, Akira Tozawa and Tamina. The argument over the 24/7 Title was on but Nikki Ash ran in to steal the title before running off. Dana told Reggie to get her a rematch tonight.

24/7 Title: Dana Brooke vs. Nikki Ash

Ash is defending and ties Brooke up in the ring skirt to forearm away early on. Back in and Brooke hits a flipping neckbreaker for the pin and the title at 1:34.

Post match everyone goes after the title, like they always do, but Brooke manages to escape. Then she tells Reggie that she wants a divorce.

Becky Lynch rants about how Asuka is trying to steal her comeback story. This is Becky's story and it starts with ending Asuka.

Here is Seth Rollins for his own appreciation night. Rollins thinks it is appropriate to give him a night of praise, including a spotlight. The fans chant for Cody Rhodes, which doesn't sit well with Rollins. He is ready for Cody at Wrestlemania Backlash, but here is Cody to interrupt. Cody talks about how he has been courteous to Rollins since he returned, but that loss is hanging around Rollins' neck. Rollins doesn't like being called delusional and says that Dusty Rhodes didn't win the WWE Title because he wasn't good enough. The beating is on with the Cody Cutter sending Rollins running.

Bobby Lashley vs. Cedric Alexander

MVP and Omos come out at the bell, with the former mocking Lashley for not being able to beat Cedric and thinking he could beat Omos. Alexander gets in some cheap shots to work on the knee but gets sent into the barricade. Back in and a spear (big one too) sets up the Hurt lock to finish Alexander at 2:36.

Liv Morgan is ready to take out Rhea Ripley.

We look back at AJ Styles beating Damian Priest.

Wrestlemania Backlash rundown.

R-Truth gives Reggie his business card as a certified divorce attorney. He is A Squire after all, which he explains as they walk past Nikki Ash. Doudrop pops up to yell at her and ask if Ash is ready to be more serious.

Becky Lynch/Sonya Deville/Rhea Ripley vs. Asuka/Liv Morgan/Bianca Belair

Becky slaps Asuka's hand away to start but gets backed into the corner for her efforts. Deville comes in so Asuka hands it off to Belair, meaning Deville needs to hide in the ropes. It's off to Ripley, who gets taken down to the mat so Liv can come in. Some running shoulders rock Becky and a middle rope dropkick gets two. Ripley offers a distraction so Liv dives onto her to let off some steam. A baseball slide drops Liv though and Becky's top rope leg gets two as we take a break.

Back with Ripley working on Liv's back as everyone but Deville claps on the apron. Liv escapes the Manhandle Slam though and grabs a DDT, allowing Belair to come back in and slam Ripley. Belair goes up but gets double superplexed back down, with Liv making the save. The big tag brings in Asuka as everything breaks down until Deville and Morgan trade rollups for two each. Deville's running knee gets two on Morgan but she's right back with Oblivion for the pin at 15:10.

Rating: C+. That was certainly a way to go, though I'm not sure who is next for Belair at this point. Deville has had her shot and now Morgan is winning, but Morgan isn't going to be a major challenger. Odds are Belair doesn't defend on Sunday, and right now that might be for the best as I don't think there is anyone ready for the shot, at least not based on how the booking has been going.

Overall Rating: D. I have no idea what planet this show was supposed to be on and that doesn't make me think much about Sunday. The main event story here was either the six man tag (which isn't for a title) or the six woman tag (which also

isn't for a title). It was like they were trying to make every story equally unimportant and unfortunately they succeeded. Nothing on Sunday feels special, as it comes off like WWE is saying the show doesn't matter. Why they would want to do that I'm not sure, but the pay per view has taken a hard turn and Raw felt like it didn't know it was coming.

Results

Kevin Owens/Alpha Academy b. Ezekiel/Street Profits – Rollup to Ezekiel

Veer Mahan b. Bert Hanson – Cervical Clutch

AJ Styles b. Damian Priest – Rollup

Miz/Theory b. Mustafa Ali – Skull Crushing Finale

Dana Brooke b. Nikki Ash – Flipping neckbreaker

Bobby Lashley b. Cedric Alexander – Hurt Lock

Bianca Belair/Liv Morgan/Asuka b. Sonya Deville/Rhea Ripley/Becky Lynch – Oblivion to Deville

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ECW On Sci Fi – November 6, 2007: Maybe They Figured It Out

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: November 6, 2007

Location: Rabobank Arena, Bakersfield, California

Commentators: Joey Styles, Taz

It's time for another title match as CM Punk defends against John Morrison (again). Mark Henry seems to be primed to become the next major force around here but you never can tell just how well that is going to go. Other than that, we don't exactly have much going on around here and that continues to be a problem. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of The Fabulous Moolah.

We open with a video on CM Punk vs. John Morrison, so at least they're getting to the point tonight.

Opening sequence.

Mark Henry vs. Kane

Henry pounds away at the back to start and crushes Kane with a powerslam for two. Kane gets driven back first into the corner but comes out slugging. That's cut off but Kane fights out of a bearhug attempt. The top rope clothesline connects but Henry knees him in the ribs to break up the chokeslam. Henry has had enough of this and grabs a chair, which is enough for the DQ.

Rating: C. They kept this one short and that is a good idea, as you can only get so far with these two doing their big man match. Henry continues to look like a monster and could become

a monster of the next few months either around here or on Smackdown. It isn't anything we haven't see before, but at least they are trying something with him.

Post match Henry wrecks Kane, including the World's Strongest Slam onto the chair.

Wrestlemania tickets are on sale. I'm still surprised that it took so long to get it to Florida.

Nunzio vs. Jamie Noble

They go with the grappling to start until Noble elbows him in the back of the head and takes him into the corner. A backbreaker gives Noble a pair of near falls and there's a kick to the head to make it worse. The chinlock goes on for a bit, with Nunzio fighting up and hitting a quick Sicilian Slice. Noble has had it though and it's a Rock Bottom backbreaker into a fireman's carry gutbuster to finish Nunzio.

Rating: C+. This might not have the biggest connection to ECW but it is nice to see some fresh blood around here. Noble is the kind of person you can put in any spot and he'll be fine through talent alone, so throwing him out there with one of the better ECW Originals is not a bad idea.

Video on John Morrison.

SAVE US, now saying "can you break the code" and "the answer is code".

Kelly Kelly vs. Layla

Miz (without Brooke, who was released a few days ago) is on commentary. Layla kicks her down to start and we're already to the mounted right hands. A slam finishes Kelly in less than a minute. Yeah a slam.

Post match Balls Mahoney runs in to check on Kelly but Miz would rather walk off than fight.

Video on CM Punk vs. John Morrison, including their history.

We get a clip from Rey Mysterio's ECW debut to promote his new DVD.

Elijah Burke vs. Shannon Moore

Moore sends him into the corner to start and drops Burke for an early two. That's too far for Burke, who punches him into the ropes for the running crotch attack. The Outer Limits elbow (good name) sets up the Elijah Express for the fast pin.

Fabulous Moolah tribute video.

Miz wishes John Morrison luck against CM Punk tonight, but Morrison doesn't need it. All Miz can do is manage a bunch of girls and he can't even do that well. Miz tells Morrison that his luck is running out soon.

We look at D-Generation X beating Randy Orton and Umaga last night on Raw.

Post Raw main event, William Regal makes a rule for Orton vs. Shawn Michaels at Survivor Series: if Shawn uses the superkick, he is disqualified and can never challenge Orton for the title again. In exchange, if Orton tries to get disqualified, Shawn is champion.

Survivor Series rundown.

ECW Title: CM Punk vs. John Morrison

Punk is defending and gets shouldered down early on. Back up and Punk starts with the kicks but Morrison blocks a middle rope sunset flip. The springboard kick to the face gives Morrison two and we're already in a crossarm choke. Punk fights out of that as well and the springboard clothesline connects for two. A leg lariat sets up a powerslam and some Kawada kicks to keep Morrison in trouble. Cue Miz for a distraction though to break up the GTS though and Morrison

grabs a rollup for two. With Punk down, Miz throws in his hat to distract Morrison, allowing Punk to grab the retaining rollup.

Rating: C+. I like the idea of bringing Miz up to the next level, as he has done well with what he has been given so far but still needs that extra boost to get him to the main event scene. If nothing else, putting him in there with Morrison in a bigger feud could be a good way to go as they have shown some nice chemistry when they are together.

Overall Rating: C+. The best thing here is they seemed to start to have an idea of how to use the Smackdown guys. I would rather have the lower level Smackdown stars filling out this show than the ECW Originals, most of whom had nothing going on and looked like losers most of the time. This show felt like it was getting closer to some stability and a more established norm and that has been needed for a long time around here.

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Daily News Update – May 2, 2022

Make sure you check out a recent review.

[Monday Night Raw – November 5, 2007](#)

Former WWE Star Makes AEW Debut (MINOR SPOILER).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/former-wwe-star-makes-ae-w-debut-minor-spoiler/>

Injured AEW Star Medically Cleared, Set For Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/injured-ae-w-star-medically-cleared-set-return/>

Yes You: WWE Already High On Another NXT Newcomer.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/yes-wwe-already-high-another-nxt-newcomer/>

Finn Balor Pokes Fun At Bobby Lashley Over Recent Mid-Match Accident.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/finn-balor-pokes-fun-bobby-lashley-recent-mid-match-accident/>

Rhea Ripley Reveals Possible Relationship With AEW Star.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rhea-ripley-reveals-possible-relationship-ae-w-star/>

Update On WWE Releases (And It Isn't A Good Thing).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/update-wwe-releases-isnt-good-thing/>

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

Monday Night Raw – November 5, 2007: A Wacky Side Trip With Special Appearances

Monday Night Raw

Date: November 5, 2007

Location: Staples Center, Los Angeles, California

Attendance: 17,133

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We're coming up on Survivor Series and now that the Smackdown main event has been announced, you have to expect the Raw counterpart will be set up soon. The big story tonight is a one night reunion of D-Generation X, as HHH needs some help deal with Randy Orton and Umaga. Sounds Survivor Seriesish to me. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Fabulous Moolah.

Opening sequence.

Here is D-Generation X to get things going. After a fairly long entrance, HHH says this is for one night only and asks if we're ready. The catchphrase is loaded up but a crotch chopping Hornswoggle interrupts. HHH: "Well that's...different." HHH tells him to get back under the ring but Hornswoggle doesn't listen. Shawn is asked for a run sheet and, after going through all of his merchandise, finds said sheet in his boot (Shawn: "In case I forget what I'm supposed to do.").

The sheet says DX PROMO in segment one at 9PM (HHH: "East coast time.") and Hornswoggle isn't on until the short segment. Hornswoggle then armdrags Shawn into an arm scissors (with HHH pointing out that it is the SHORT arm scissors). Shawn: "I'm going to make a judgment call here: for tonight, he's in.". Hornswoggle doesn't want to go under the ring because there's a monster under there.

Shawn goes to look...and is pulled under. He comes back up with worms in his mouth so here is the Boogeyman. HHH hands him a mic, with Boogeyman saying "I'M THE BOOGEYMAN, AND I'M COMING TO....see if I can join DX." Shawn makes another executive decision and lets Boogeyman in again so here is Great Khali as a bonus. Shawn: "To keep me from turning into a human Slim Jim, let's pretend he isn't here and move on." HHH goes into an Indian impression that would get him thrown off the air today but now it's Coach interrupting.

HHH isn't having this and tells Runjin Singh what Coach said about Khali earlier. Shawn, who CAN'T LIE, backs HHH up and Khali chases Coach to the floor. Everyone else leaves, with Shawn saying he doesn't know who writes this anymore but this is the worst thing he's seen since that Katie Vick thing. HHH: "I don't think anyone writes this crap. They're on strike." Catchphrases are hit to wrap up the wackiness.

Actor Luke Perry is here. There are some kids around him, and

if one of those is his son, we have seen the wrestling debut of the future Jungle Boy.

We look back at Kelly Kelly winning last week's Halloween battle royal and getting destroyed by Beth Phoenix after.

Beth Phoenix vs. Kelly Kelly

Non-title and Phoenix grabs a release fisherman's suplex for the pin in less than a minute. Well so much for Kelly for the time being, which is how it should go in this situation.

Santino Marella knows that Steve Austin will be here tonight and mocks Austin's acting abilities. He even throws in a paper bag, so Austin can act his way out of it.

Carlito vs. Joey Munoz

Hold on though as Carlito says he isn't wrestling so here is a replacement.

Snitsky vs. Joey Munoz

Pumphandle slam finishes Munoz in about thirty seconds.

Post match Snitsky kicks Carlito in the face and gives him the pumphandle slam too. Time for another Snitsky push it seems.

We get a Jeff Hardy video set to Rooftops by Lostprophets. This is actually on Peacock despite it being a music video and the Lostprophets singer being a monster. That aside, this is a heck of a video, with the lyrics about screaming and dropping bombs being timed to shots of fans screaming for Hardy and Swantons. You can tell something big is coming for him and that is a very good idea. Ignore Jerry Lawler being heard asking "how long is it" after the video starts.

For Survivor Series: Team HHH (HHH/CM Punk/Kane/Jeff Hardy/Matt Hardy) vs. Team Umaga (Umaga/MVP/Mr. Kennedy/Finlay/Big Daddy V).

Mr. Kennedy/Finlay vs. Rey Mysterio/Jeff Hardy

JR dubs Hardy and Mysterio as the WWE Air Force. Hardy and Finlay go to the mat to start until a Kennedy distraction lets Finlay hit a clothesline to the floor. We take a break and come back with Mysterio hitting a springboard crossbody on Kennedy, only to have him run Mysterio over.

It's Finlay coming back in to go after the knee, including a half crab. The legdrop onto the knee makes it worse and Kennedy adds a right hand for two. Mysterio is back with something like a DDT, allowing the hot tag off to Hardy to clean house. The Whisper in the Wind hits Kennedy but Finlay makes the save. Rey 619s Finlay to the floor, leaving Hardy to hit the Swanton for the pin.

Rating: C+. Pretty standard midcard tag match here with the wrestlers involved being good enough to make almost anything work. Mysterio vs. Finlay is set up for a blowoff on Friday while Hardy vs. Kennedy seems to have run its course. That being said, throw in the video package before the match and it is hard to imagine they are waiting much longer on giving Hardy the main event push, which seems to have been set up for a few weeks now.

Maria tries to tell Santino Marella that Steve Austin is here but he doesn't buy it.

Here are Maria and Santino Marella for a chat. Santino mocks the Condemned, then he mocks the Condemned's director, then he mocks the Condemned again, then Steve Austin comes out. Austin corrects Santino's errors in his catchphrases and then asks about the Condemned again. Santino really did hate the movie and turns down a beer, saying he would rather have a glass of red wine. Austin hands him a copy of the Condemned but Santino can't watch it again.

There's the Stunner, allowing Austin to put the DVD in Santino's mouth. Austin thinks Santino is thirsty and goes to

the back before coming out driving a beer truck. Santino gets sprayed down and, despite her begging, so does Maria. Beer is consumed to wrap up a segment that wasn't funny and felt pretty out of character for Austin. I know he needs to promote a DVD, but that just doesn't feel like an Austin thing.

SAVE US!

Vince McMahon is in the back with Hornswoggle and takes the blame for the trouble Hornswoggle has had with Jonathan Coachman. McMahon even has a way for Hornswoggle to prove himself at Survivor Series....when he faces Great Khali.

Survivor Series rundown.

HHH is in the back and has been asked to talk because they need to fill in time while Steve Austin's mess is cleaned up. Shawn Michaels comes in to say he has it set, so here are the DX Dancers....which is Big Dick Johnson. HHH isn't impressed but Shawn says he's a father of two so the only cool thing he knows is Dora the Explorer. Don't worry though as HHH has The Girls Next Door (from a Playboy reality show, meaning Shawn leaves with his eyes covered). Dancing ensues and it's very strange to see HHH....I guess it's dancing but I'm not sure.

Lance Cade sends Mickie James away for talking to Trevor Murdoch.

Trevor Murdoch vs. Cody Rhodes

Ignore Lilian Garcia saying Lance Cade (at ringside) is in the match by mistake. Hardcore Holly is here too and Rhodes is sent to the apron to start, where he gets in a shoulder to the ribs. Murdoch breaks that up and takes him down for a chinlock as Lawler and JR make as many redneck jokes as they can. Rhodes fights up and hits a bulldog into a knee drop for two but Cade's distraction fails. Murdoch misses a charge into the corner though and Rhodes grabs a sunset flip for the pin. Not much to this one but Rhodes wins again.

Tribute video to Fabulous Moolah. This includes a rundown of her career highlights, such as becoming the first woman to wrestle in Madison Square Garden. I guess she wrestled herself that night.

Jim Duggan/Super Crazy vs. World's Greatest Tag Team

Before the match, Duggan and Crazy chant SI/HO over and over. Haas knocks Crazy over to start and hits a slam before handing it off to Benjamin. More slamming abounds as Duggan continues to play cheerleader on the apron. Benjamin knocks Duggan off the apron but Crazy grabs a rollup (with trunks) for the pin. Duggan never tagged in but he does pat Crazy on the head after the win.

Umaga/Randy Orton vs. D-Generation X

It's a brawl on the floor to start with Orton being sent into the announcers' table before being thrown inside. Umaga comes in to miss a sitdown splash on Michaels, allowing HHH to grab a surprisingly effective DDT. HHH gets knocked outside though and we take a break. Back with Umaga missing a charge in the corner, allowing the tag off to Orton. That's fine with HHH, who drops Orton almost immediately.

Michaels comes back in for the usual comeback, including the forearm and top rope elbow. Umaga isn't having that and runs Shawn over, allowing Orton to bring Umaga in for real. Some right hands keep Shawn down in the corner and it's back to Orton for a dropkick. The circle stomp sets up the running Umaga splash and we're off to the nerve hold.

The middle rope headbutt misses and an enziguri to the shoulder (not sure that's how that works) allows the hot tag back to HHH. Everything breaks down and Umaga saves Orton from the Pedigree with the Spike, setting up the running hip attack in the corner. The RKO is countered with a shove into Umaga though and Shawn comes in for a quick superkick to pin Orton.

Rating: C+. Much like the other tag match, they played the formula here and it still works, as everyone involved can do this style rather well. Shawn vs. Orton II should be a good showdown at Survivor Series, while Umaga vs. HHH at least has the team format to keep things a little more fresh. The DX reunion was good for a night, but I don't need to see it again going forward.

Overall Rating: D+. I'm not sure what this show was but it didn't exactly work. Maybe it is due to Survivor Series coming up so soon, but this felt like a weird side trip rather than a show designed to help set up the pay per view. There were so many short matches that didn't add much and it was a weird night all around. The DX reunion was fun but the Austin cameo fell pretty flat, leaving this as a not very appealing two hours. Much more strange than good this week and that isn't a positive thing.

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