

Dynamite – May 17, 2023: Get The Table (Not That One)

Dynamite

Date: May 17, 2023

Location: Moody Center, Austin, Texas

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Excalibur, Taz

We have less than two weeks to go before Double Or Nothing and coming into this show, two matches have been announced. That should be easy to solve as there are several matches all but ready to announce, though AEW does like to take their time actually making things official. Don Callis also owes us an explanation so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here is Wardlow to get straight to the point. He calls out Christian Cage, who comes out with Luchasaurus. Christian and Wardlow argue with Christian loading up some spot in the face. Luchasaurus breaks that up and a low blow drops Wardlow so the beating can be on. A ladder is brought in and Luchasaurus chokeslams Wardlow through it for a nasty crash. An Unprettier onto the ladder drops Wardlow again and Christian holds up the TNT Title. It has been what, two months since we've had a ladder match around here?

Orange Cassidy/Darby Allin vs. Lee Moriarty/Big Bill

Moriarty and Cassidy trade rollups to start and wind up sitting on the mat for a quick slap off. Bill comes in to throw Darby around but everything breaks down and stereo suicide dives drop the villains. We take a break and come back with Bill loading up a delayed vertical suplex. It's so delayed that Cassidy manages to tag out but the referee

doesn't see it and gets Allin out before Cassidy is dropped.

Cassidy manages to roll away and bring in Allin officially to clean house. Bill cuts Allin off with a Boss Man Slam for two, meaning Allin has to bring Cassidy back in. Moriarty gets Cassidy in a Border City Stretch but that's broken up as well, allowing Cassidy to drive him into the corner. It's Bill coming back in for a double clothesline but an assisted Code Red puts him down. The Beach Break from Cassidy sets up the Coffin Drop to Moriarty...for no cover. Instead, Allin grabs a headlock takeover for the pin at 11:04.

Rating: B. This got rolling near the end and I was digging what they were doing. The headlock takeover was a nice addition as it gave the match a tie into what Allin is doing and it isn't like Moriarty has anything to lose. It's kind of a weird set of teams to open the show, but the fans liked it and the action got rather intense by the end.

The Young Bucks say Kenny Omega is banged up when the Blackpool Combat Club comes in to beat them down. Jon Moxley declares the Club the Elite in this business.

Wardlow is being checked out when Arn Anderson comes in to yell at him. The result: Wardlow challenges Christian Cage to a ladder match for the TNT Title at Double Or Nothing. Well of course he did.

Orange Cassidy will fight everyone, including Kyle Fletcher, at Double Or Nothing.

Sammy Guevara vs. Exodus Prime

GTH finishes Prime at 19 seconds. I guess Sammy doesn't mind paying for shipping.

Post match Guevara talks about working his way up through the Texas independents and knowing what it took to get here. At Double Or Nothing, he's winning the title. Uh yeah home state

or not, he was taking a check to take a dive three weeks ago so the face turn isn't quite working for me.

Video on the Four Pillars match.

Tony Schiavone brings out Sonjay Dutt and company for a chat. Well never mind as FTR runs in and jumps Satnam Singh to knock him off the stage, starting the brawl with Jeff Jarrett and Jay Lethal. With Lethal losing a good portion of his pants, Jarrett is left inside to get double teamed. Cue Karen Jarrett of all people to how blow Wheeler, allowing Jarrett to Stroke Harwood. Singh is back in and guitar shots abound.

Darby Allin says that was a message to MJF but Sammy Guevara comes in. He isn't going to be a follower, but offers an alliance with Allin to take the title from MJF. Sure.

Outcasts vs. Hikaru Shida/Britt Baker

The Outcasts (with Saraya) start fast but the running hip attack is broken up. Shida hits a middle rope dropkick to drop Soho and it's off to Baker. Saraya's distraction lets Storm hip attack her to the floor, where Saraya gets in a few more shots. We take a break and come back with Shida coming in to fire off on Shida, allowing Baker to hit a suplex.

Shida's top rope Meteora gives Baker two as Storm has to make a save. Baker does the always ridiculous looking spot where her neckbreaker makes Storm DDT her partner but Lockjaw is countered. No Future drops Baker and it's back to Storm, who gets caught with an Air Raid Crash. Saraya pops up for a distraction though and Storm spray paints Baker in the face, setting up Storm Zero for the pin at 9:13.

Rating: C+. Storm almost has to be next in line for Jamie Hayter, assuming she is back in time for Double Or Nothing. The ending felt like a heel stable cheating to win and was one of the first times I've felt like the Outcasts were getting things right. It was a nice upgrade from their usual team

stuff and that could be trouble for whomever they face next.

Orange Cassidy is told that twenty people want the International Title so he'll fight them all, say in a Blackjack Battle.

Tony Khan's big announcement is the debut of Collision on June 17 (location TBA) and we hear about some upcoming cities. Collision was announced earlier today, so the Big Announcement is a mixture of that and upcoming cities for Collision tapings?

Chris Jericho vs. Roderick Strong

Falls Count Anywhere and Adam Cole/the JAS are barred from the arena. Strong starts fast and they trade chops, with Strong getting the better of things. A running clothesline sends Strong to the floor and the beating continues, setting up the Walls back inside. Strong makes the rope for the break (If it's falls count anywhere, why did the hold need to be broken? In the ropes counts as anywhere.) and a commercial break.

We come back with Jericho suplexing Strong through a table in the concourse as commentary tells us about the death of Superstar Billy Graham (might want to time that better people). They fight into a stairwell and Jericho hits a running forearm on a platform above the stairs for two. The fight goes into the concession area and Strong throws plastic cutlery at Jericho. Some ice cream to the face drops Jericho again but Strong heads outside. Jericho follows...and Adam Cole is waiting right there to jump Jericho and beat him down. Strong adds the jumping knee to the face for the pin at 13:01.

Rating: B-. This was a good example of a match where they all but flat out said what the ending was going to be and it was exactly how it should have gone. As soon as you could see daylight, you knew Cole would be there and everything leading up to that was just ice cream on the cake. Entertaining brawl, but more importantly a solid step forward for Cole vs.

Jericho.

Rush vs. Jungle Boy

They fight straight to the floor with Rush getting the better of things and sending Jungle Boy into the barricade. We take an early break and come back with Jungle Boy's clothesline having no effect. Jungle Boy manages to stagger him and get up top for a super hurricanrana.

The Snare Trap goes on in the middle of the ring but Rush makes the ropes anyway. They go to the apron to chop it out until Rush belly to bellies him over, with Jungle Boy BARELY getting his head around to avoid crashing into the floor. Back in and Rush stomps away in the corner but stops to yell at the referee, allowing Jungle Boy to grab a rollup with trunks for the pin at 9:58.

Rating: C+. This was quite the miss as I'm not sure how it was supposed to make Jungle Boy look good. Unless they were trying to do something with Jungle Boy pulling the trunks at the end, this made Jungle Boy look rather weak, especially as he comes up on the biggest match of his career. Rush got in WAY too much offense here and Jungle Boy looked beneath him for a good portion of the match, which is not the way this should have gone.

Post match Rush and company beat down Jungle Boy, with Darby Allin's save attempt not working. Sammy Guevara comes out for the real save and Guevara, Allin and Jungle Boy stare at each other.

MJF knocks Renee Paquette's microphone away when asked about the title match.

Toni Storm wants Jamie Hayter for the Women's Title at Double Or Nothing.

Jay White vs. Ricky Starks

Juice Robinson is in White's corner. White starts fast and sends Starks outside, only to be sent into the barricade for his efforts. Back in and White gets two off a hot shot as we take an early break. We come back with Starks kicking him down and grabbing a springboard tornado DDT for two. White drops him ribs first on top to bang up the ribs though and a swinging Rock Bottom gives White two more.

Starks tries to fight back but gets sent over the top in a big crash to the floor. Back in and a quick Michinoku Driver gives Starks two but Robinson trips him up. The Blade Runner is countered into a rollup to give Starks two, followed by the spear. Robinson brings in a chair but gets it taken away from him, allowing Starks to unload on him. Another chair to White's back is enough for the DQ at 9:30.

Rating: C+. This got going near the end but the ending felt a lot more like a way to keep the feud going. I'm just not sure why that is the case though, as White vs. Starks hasn't exactly been lighting the world on fire. White was brought in and put into this feud completely on his reputation. He really could use more mic time to show what he can do and what he is all about, but that might not be coming for a long time.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Here is Don Callis, with security, for his big explanation. He is the real victim in the Kenny Omega situation, because he carried Omega to everything in his career. Omega tries to fight through them but the Blackpool Combat Club jumps him hard. The Club gets in the ring as Omega tries to get up, which draws out the Young Bucks to even things up a bit.

Cue the returning Hangman Page (with eye patch) for the save and big brawl. Page announces Anarchy In The Arena for Double Or Nothing, leaving Moxley looking worried to end the show. Omega looked like a star here and Page's return was rather good. The Four Pillars match will probably headline, but it's

hard to imagine that this isn't going to be the real main event.

Overall Rating: B-. Good show here, though the Four Pillars match still isn't exactly lighting the world on fire. Other than that, the main event angle was good and the opener went well. Add in the Cole interference going precisely as it should have and this was a completely watchable show overall. They need a strong show next week to get us to Double Or Nothing, and that feels like a possibility given this one setting the table for the table setting.

Results

Orange Cassidy/Darby Allin b. Lee Moriarty/Big Bill – Headlock takeover to Moriarty

Sammy Guevara b. Exodus Prime – GTH

Outcasts b. Hikaru Shida/Britt Baker – Storm Zero to Baker

Roderick Strong b. Chris Jericho – Jumping knee to the face

Jungle Boy b. Rush – Rollup with trunks

Jay White b. Ricky Starks via DQ when Starks used a chair

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Daily News Update – May 17, 2023

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[Monday Night Raw – May 15, 2023](#)

[NXT – May 16, 2023](#)

He Might Know: Randy Orton's Father Offers Not So Promising Speculation About His Son's Career.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/might-know-randy-ortons-father-offers-not-promising-speculation-sons-career/>

A Star In Any Name: Rhea Ripley Talks Acting Aspirations, Reveals Why She Declined Film Role.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/star-name-rhea-ripley-talks-acting-aspirations-reveals-declined-film-role/>

They're In: AEW Adds Three New Names To Its Roster Page.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/theyre-aew-adds-three-new-names-roster-page/>

WATCH: NXT Star Taken Down By Masked Attacker At Live Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-nxt-star-taken-masked-attacker-live-event/>

Fast Track: AEW Star Cleared To Return From Injury Faster Than Expected.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/fast-track-aew-star-cleared>

[red-return-injury-faster-expected/](#)

In Order: Internal SmackDown Roster Rankings Revealed.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/order-internal-smackdown-roster-rankings-revealed/>

That's An Issue: More On Long Term AEW Star Departing Company, Reportedly Taken By Surprise.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-issue-long-term-ae-w-star-departing-company-taken-surprise/>

WATCH: MJF Makes Special Return To His Former Stomping Grounds.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-mjf-makes-special-return-former-stomping-grounds/>

Not Included: Backstage Update On Bray Wyatt's WWE Status (And It's Not Good).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-included-backstage-update-bray-wyatts-wwe-status-not-good/>

Up Next: New Title Match Set For Night Of Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-new-title-match-set-night-champions/>

WATCH: Two Monday Night Raw Stars Make Surprise Return After Injury Absence.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/surprise-two-monday-night-raw-stars-make-surprise-return-injury-absence/>

Down For Now: Reigning WWE Champion Injured, Misses Scheduled Title Defense.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/now-reigning-wwe-champion-injured-misses-scheduled-title-defense/>

Going Somewhere? Important Update On WWE Television Deal Negotiations.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/going-somewhere-important-update-wwe-television-deal-negotiations/>

Big Change: Select WWE Stars Receive Special Freedom.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/big-change-select-wwe-stars-receive-special-freedom/>

Maybe? Kofi Kingston Sort Of Acknowledges Strange Fan Theory About His Jamaican Accent.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/maybe-kofi-kingston-sort-acknowledges-strange-fan-theory-jamaican-accent/>

That's Important: Detail On Plans For Becky Lynch vs. Trish Stratus.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Planning Heel Turns For Three Popular Stars Later This Year.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-wwe-planning-heel-turns-three-popular-stars-later-year/>

LOOK: Seth Rollins Seen On Set Of Upcoming Captain America Movie.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/look-seth-rollins-seen-set-upcoming-captain-america-movie/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Roman Reigns Taking WWE Hiatus Later This Year, Expected Schedule.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-roman-reigns-taking-wwe-hiatus-later-year-expected-schedule/>

Double Skilled: Former WWE Champion Set For Double Role On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/double-skilled-former-ww-e-champion-set-double-role-monday-night-raw/>

Big Return: Missing Top WWE Star Advertised For Upcoming Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/big-return-missing-top-ww-e-star-advertised-upcoming-event/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: NXT Tag Team To Reunite On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-nxt-tag-team-reunite-monday-night-raw/>

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NXT – May 16, 2023: Please Don't Be Normal

NXT

Date: May 16, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

Tournament time continues around here as we have more from the Women's Title tournament, likely including the rest of the first round. Other than that, we are less than two weeks away from Battleground and there are a few more matches that need

to be set. Throw in some more build towards Bron Breakker vs. Carmelo Hayes II and we should be in for a big night. Let's get to it.

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

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Cora Jade vs. Fallon Henley

Henley takes her down to start and slides to the floor for a right hand. Back in and Jade starts in on the leg, including crushing it on the ropes for one. Jade hits a running dropkick in the ropes as we see the locker room watching (with Duke Hudson grading papers on the side). Henley fights up but her knee is too banged up, allowing Jade to roll outside. Back in and a shot to the knee takes Henley down, allowing Jade to hit the double arm DDT for the pin at 5:07.

Rating: C. There wasn't much time for this one but they managed to get in a quick story with the knee injury. I like Henley but there was no way she should have gone over here, as Jade has been treated as a much bigger deal for a long time now. What we got here worked well enough, but there just wasn't enough time to really develop it.

Thea Hail and Kiana James argue a lot and a match is ready for later. Duke Hudson has to approve Hail for the match, and gives his ok without looking up.

The Dyad jumps Wes Lee and Tyler Bate. Joe Gacy says their relationship is based on lies and will fall apart. Can Gacy fall apart instead?

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams arrive in a very nice car and we follow them from the parking lot to the arena. Hayes said Williams defended his honor last week but after the match, Bron Breakker wanted to deliver a message. The tape on his ribs says message received, but Breakker needs to realize that this isn't the same Hayes. They're in his yard at Battleground

and in his yard, they bite instead of bark.

They want him out here to fight right now, but get Drew Gulak and Charlie Dempsey (who they passed on the way into the arena) instead. They don't like being disrespected and the WILLY WONKA chants don't help things. The challenge is on and we seem to have a main event for later.

Ilja Dragunov interrupts Dijak and they promise to hurt each other.

Dani Palmer was attack at a live event by a masked woman (presumably the same woman who has been attacking various women for months).

Creed Brothers vs. Dyad

Julius and Fowler start things off with Julius powering him over. It's off to Brutus with a top rope ax handle before both Dyads get passed around in a delayed vertical suplex. Fowler even gets passed back to Julius before finally being dropped for two. Reid comes back in and manages a Koji Clutch, with Fowler stomping away for a bonus. Julius finally spinebusters him down and we take a break.

Back with Julius fighting out of trouble again and diving over to Brutus (even as Fowler has Julius' leg). Brutus knocks Fowler over hard for two before suplexing him/rolling up Reid at the same time for two each. A double clothesline leaves Fowler and Brutus down so Julius and Reid hit stereo 450s. The two of them slug it out until Reid reverses a powerbomb into a DDT. Ava goes after Ivy Nile on the floor and gets choked out, setting up the sliding forearm to finish Reid at 14:11.

Rating: B. It's rather fascinating how much Joe Gacy's presence makes my soul feel like it's dying while Dyad can be a heck of a team when they can just get in the ring and do their thing. Other than that, Julius continues to feel like a stud and someone who could be a breakout star on his own at

any time. This was a heck of an athletic display here and it made for a very enjoyable match, which I wasn't quite expecting.

Tony D'Angelo and Stacks were at dinner when Stacks had to go make a phone call. While he was gone, some cops arrived to take D'Angelo in for questioning about various criminal acts. Stacks comes back in, is told what happened, and makes another call as he leaves.

The Creeds want Gallus for the Tag Team Titles at Battleground.

Here is Noam Dar for a live Supernova Sessions. Dar says that his guest will not take the Heritage Cup from him and brings out Dragon Lee. Dar talks about training, but Lee says he has been trained since he was 14, including to be trained to respect his opponent. Lee wants the Heritage Cup but Dar mocks the idea of Lee even understanding the rules. Nathan Frazer comes out to say everyone wants to see Lee win the cup, so Lee issues the challenge for Battleground. Frazer says if Dar loses, maybe Alicia Fox will be interested. Oh and he can fight Dar next week in a regular match.

Dijak appears to have kidnapped and tortured Ilja Dragunov, who says he hasn't had close to enough.

Jacy Jayne is annoyed about not getting to face Gigi Dolin in the tournament. She'll have to beat up Roxanne Perez to blow off some steam instead.

Trick Williams/Carmelo Hayes vs. Charlie Dempsey/Drew Gulak

Williams takes Dempsey down to start and it's quickly off to Hayes for some armdrags to Gulak. A keylock has Hayes in trouble and it's off to Dempsey to get taken down by the arm. Dempsey goes for a Boston crab but gets flipped away without much effort. Williams it back in with a jumping clothesline but gets taken down by the leg to put him in trouble. Dempsey

can't get a half crab as Williams kicks him in the head. There's the tag off to Hayes to clean house as everything breaks down. A spinning kick to the face sets up Nothing But Net to give Hayes the pin on Dempsey at 6:33.

Rating: C+. Just a quick one here with Williams and Hayes showing that they are still fine after getting wrecked by Bron Breaker. I'm still a bit surprised by having Dempsey take the fall rather than Gulak, as Dempsey would seem to have quite the future ahead of him. Either way, this was about getting Williams and Hayes back up and it worked well enough.

Post match Hayes and Williams call out Bron Breaker again. Cue Breaker on the screen, and he's at the barber shop.

Duke Hudson doesn't remember giving Thea Hail permission to have a match but let's go anyway.

Noam Dar runs into Jakara Jackson and Lash Legend. The latter talks about all of the talk shows around here and brings up Lashing Out. Please, I beg of you, ANYTHING but bringing that thing back.

Thea Hail vs. Kiana James

Duke Hudson, still grading papers, is here too. Hail rolls her up for two to start but gets elbowed in the face for her efforts. James is sent outside though and a dive finally gets Hudson's attention. Back in and the waistlock goes on but Hail fights up and makes the comeback. Some suplexes set up a headbutt to James' ribs, followed by a high crossbody for two. James shrugs it off and hits the 401K for the pin at 4:48.

Rating: C-. This didn't have time to do anything and was mainly just there for James to get a win. Hail continues to be stuck in one place and little more than a piece in whatever is going on with Duke Hudson and Andre Chase. I could have gone with Hail getting in more offense here or even winning, but that doesn't seem to be her thing most of the time.

Tank Ledger and Hank Walker run into Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen. Last week's match made them closer, so Ledger wants to fight Walker next week. Walker eventually agrees.

Tyler Bate is hurt after the Schism attack, so Wes Lee is ready to go address this in the ring.

Video on Dabba-Kato, who isn't happy with not being Drafted. Now he wants a title match.

Edris Enofe, Axiom, Malik Blade and Eddy Thorpe have varying degrees of worry about Kato.

Here is a ticked off Wes Lee for a chat. He's sick of Joe Gacy and Schism, so if Gacy wants his title shot, come get it. Gacy, with Ava (still holding her neck) pops up on the platform to say he wants the North American Title. Ava says Tyler Bate is just using Lee so here is Bate in person. Bate says he wants a receipt on Gacy...and the title. Gacy mocks the idea and is told to shut up. Lee says let's just make it a triple threat.

Roxanne Perez is ready to get the Women's Title back and looks at pictures of everything that she has done so far. She still wants to get up to the main roster, but we'll see how she gets there.

Von Wagner gets made at Javier Bernal for annoying Mr. Stone, who can't believe Wagner stood up for him. Stone knows there is a superstar inside him...but is he ready to talk about the baby picture. Wagner: "Nice try." WHY DOES STONE CARE ABOUT THE PICTURE SO MUCH???

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Jacy Jayne vs. Roxanne Perez

Perez goes for the arm to start and grabs a sunset flip for two. The armbarring continues but Jayne knocks her off the apron and we take a break. Back with Jayne grabbing a chinlock

with a knee in the back to keep Perez in trouble. Perez fights up and hits a dropkick to the floor, setting up the suicide dive. A pump kick into a Russian legsweep gives Perez two but Jayne superkicks her into a discus forearm. Back up and Perez kicks her in the ribs, setting up Pop Rox for the pin at 9:06.

Rating: C+. As tends to be the case with tournaments, this one didn't have a ton of drama given that the winner would face Tiffany Stratton. Perez is still incredibly smooth in the ring given her limited experience and it is quite impressive to see. Jayne is going to have to deal with Gigi Dolin at some point anyway, so Perez moving on to bigger things is the way to go.

Post match Tiffany Stratton comes out to stare at Perez. Cue Gigi Dolin to jump Jayne until they have to be held apart.

Dijak is still torturing Ilja Dragunov and insists that he will break him. Dragunov is still standing. Dijak seems to take this as a challenge.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Here are Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams to call out Bron Breaker again. Cue Breaker, flanked by security, to mock both of them for the beatings he has given them. Hayes is ready to fight but Breaker says this is more about humiliating Hayes in his hometown at Battleground. Breaker insults Boston sports teams so Hayes flips onto the security. Williams brawls with security as Hayes and Breaker get inside, where Hayes hits him low and gets in a belt shot (with the camera angle showing the belt not coming close) to end the show. Hayes had to get in something on Breaker after so many weeks of beatdowns.

Overall Rating: C. This was a weird show, as the action did have its moments (the Dyad vs. Creeds was rather good) and some stuff was set up for Battleground, but that doesn't mean it worked altogether. The focus on people like Gacy and Noam

Dar doesn't exactly bode well around here and it made me want the show to end a lot faster than I usually do. The roster is still being shifted around after the Draft, but hopefully these weaker shows aren't the new norm. NXT is better than this and while the show wasn't bad, it had some really, really rough spots this week.

Results

Cora Jade b. Fallon Henley – Double arm DDT

Creed Brothers b. Dyad – Sliding forearm to Reid

Trick Williams/Carmelo Hayes b. Charlie Dempsey/Drew Gulak – Nothing But Net to Dempsey

Kiana James b. Thea Hail – 401K

Roxanne Perez b. Jacy Jayne – Pop Rox

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Monday Night Raw – May 15, 2023: That Sounds Heymanish

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 15, 2023

Location: Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, North Carolina

Commentators Kevin Patrick, Corey Graves

We are less than two weeks away from Night Of Champions and the main event (in theory) is set with Seth Rollins vs. AJ Styles for the inaugural World Heavyweight Championship. Other than that, we have a different form of the Bloodline coming after Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn, who might have something to say about it this week. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here are Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn for the opening chat (after a clip of the announcement that they will defend against Roman Reigns and Solo Sikoa). Zayn is fired up about the match because it is their chance to check Reigns for good. Reigns is pushing the Bloodline way too hard and everything is falling apart. Now Reigns being champion for 1,000 days isn't enough because he wants the Tag Team Titles too. Well HE CAN'T HAVE THEM, but Zayn and Owens can have an interruption at the hands of the Judgment Day.

Owens doesn't care what they have to say because he wants to fight, but Zayn says we should hear them out. Zayn: "Gentlemen and Dom." The team gets in the ring to talk and Finn Balor says they'll be waiting on the titles after Night Of Champions. Rhea Ripley laughs at the idea but Dominik Mysterio is booted out of the building. The fight starts fast with Zayn clearing the ring with the save. Dominik's heat continues to be amazing and it is just awesome to see the fans loathe him

like this.

Shinsuke Nakamura vs. The Miz

Nakamura sends him into the corner to start but runs into the general vicinity of Miz's boot. Another boot doesn't connect either (though Nakamura goes down anyway), only to have Nakamura kick him down for the apron knee. Miz neckbreakers him across the rope though and we take a break.

Back with Nakamura's kicks being blocked so he kicks Miz in the head instead. The running knee in the corner sets up a cross armbreaker but Miz stacks him up for two. Miz's short DDT gets two so Nakamura kicks him in the head again for the same. The sliding German suplex looks to set up Kinshasa but Miz bails to the apron. The distraction lets Miz hit the Skull Crushing Finale for two, only to walk into Kinshasa for the pin at 9:57.

Rating: B-. This was one of the better Miz matches in a bit as he was hanging in there with Nakamura, and mostly clean at that. Nakamura needed the win after coming up short last week, so at least he is getting somewhere. WWE needs to reestablish things a bit with the new roster and this should be held set the lineup a bit.

Chelsea Green and Sonya Deville aren't happy that Liv Morgan is hurt, meaning their Women's Tag Team Title match is off for tonight. Raquel Rodriguez is willing to beat up Green tonight, with Green sounding a bit nervous, even as she yells.

We get a video on Seth Rollins, going all the way back to his NXT days.

Corey Graves sits down with Rollins, who talks about winning the first NXT Title in a tournament. He became a force for change, which included turning on Roman Reigns to break up the Shield. More on this later.

Here is Imperium, with Gunther standing on the announcers' table. Gunther has been the most dominant Intercontinental Champion of the modern era and now he will continue his reign on Raw. For now though, no one has been named as his next challenger for this prestigious championship (WHY DOES NO ONE ELSE PRAISE THEIR TITLES LIKE HIM???). That will be solved soon, and he will defeat them at Night Of Champions.

Battle Royal

Ricochet, Bronson Reed, Erik, Ivar, Johnny Gargano, Akira Tozawa, Elias, Humberto, Angel, Apollo Crews, Von Wagner, Dolph Ziggler, Xyon Quinn, Cedric Alexander, JD Drake, Dexter Lumis, Mansoor, Mace, Riddick Moss, Baron Corbin, Otis, Riddle, Chad Gable, Shelton Benjamin, Mustafa Ali

For the Intercontinental Title shot at Night Of Champions and I believe that's everyone. Corbin, in shorts, dumps Tozawa to start and is immediately clotheslined out by Lumis. The Models get rid of Lumis and are tossed out by the Alpha Academy, followed by McDonagh headbutting Humberto out. Ziggler kicks McDonagh out but gets eliminated by Wagner (that an upset). McDonagh goes after Ziggler on the floor and we take a break.

Back with the Vikings tossing out Benjamin and Quinn, plus Benjamin. The Academy and the Vikings have a standoff with Erik being sent to the apron. Gable is suplexed to the apron with him but hangs on and can't quite German suplex Erik out. The knee knocks Gable silly (but not out), allowing Otis to dump Erik. Ivar knocks Gable out but Reed tosses Ivar and Otis at the same time.

We're down to eight (Reed, Riddle, Ricochet, Moss, Gargano, Elias, Crews and Ali) with everyone else going after Reed. With that not working, Gargano snaps off a hurricanrana to Ali, who is right back with the rolling neckbreaker. The slingshot spear hits Ali but Ricochet crushes Gargano with a running shooting star press. Moss fall away slams Gargano but

walks into Reed's Samoan drop. Crews Blockbusters (or kind of flip dives into) Reed, only to get kned in the face by Elias.

Crews gets rid of Elias but gets eliminated by Reed, leaving us with six. Reed Rock Bottoms Gargano onto Ricochet but Riddle is there with the strikes. The Floating Bro finally drops Reed but Moss hits a heck of a shoulders to knock Riddle down. Not that it matters as Riddle dumps Moss, followed by a hurricanrana to get rid of Gargano.

Gunther sends the rest of Imperium after Riddle and that's enough for Reed to knock him out. Ricochet knees Reed in the face and dropkicks him...not quite out, as Ali has to help but they only get Reed to the apron. A triangle dropkick staggers Reed again but another one is countered into a fireman's carry. That leaves Ali to dropkick both Reed and Ricochet out for the win at 12:28.

Rating: B-. This got WAY better after the break and Ali vs. Gunther could be quite the nice title match at Night Of Champions. Reed continued to look like a monster here and Riddle felt like one of the biggest stars around. Ali winning is a nice choice and he should be fine as a fresh challenger for Gunther. Good stuff here overall, and multiple people got a nice showcase.

Here is Becky Lynch for a chat. Becky talks about how she has been going through a lot lately but in this business you put on your best face and keep going. She got some help from two legends in Trish Stratus and Lita, the latter of whom was great. Becky and Lita won the Women's Tag Team Titles and she even let Trish get close to them. She didn't see what was really going on, because Trish was just here to help herself like the backstabbing egomaniac that she really is.

Becky is out there to say Thank You Trish...for turning on a light that had been off for many, many months. Trish called Becky's daughter stupid and that gave all of the badness in

her head a face and a name and a target. Trish wants to be #1 again but Becky has had it, been it, done it and has it. She's going to kick Trish's head in at Night Of Champions. That's sooner than I was expecting the match but this felt more like old school Becky, which is always a good thing.

Rhea Ripley is seen watching in the back and doesn't seem impressed with Becky. When asked about Natalya, Ripley says Natalya needs to stay out of her way. Natalya comes in to say this is about Ripley attacking an already beaten Dana Brooke. Ripley deserves respect but she isn't allowing it for anyone else. That doesn't work for Ripley, who knows Natalya wasn't there for Brooke last week. If Natalya ever interrupts her again, it will be the end of her legendary career.

Mustafa Ali is very proud of his win when he runs into the Alpha Academy. They should try being more positive, but Ali keeps going and runs into Imperium. Gunther says Ali is the rightful challenger to what is rightfully Gunther's, but we get a good luck handshake anyway. Ali feels sorry for Gunther having to go halfway around the world, just to lose his title. Gunther smiles at him and seems to like Ali's moxie.

Dominik Mysterio vs. Xavier Woods

Rhea Ripley is here with Mysterio, who is again booed out of the building for trying to talk about Woods being all alone. Woods says he's alone right now, but unlike Mysterio, he's a grown man who can fight on his own without needing permission to speak from Mami. Woods hammers away to start and hits the running dropkick to the back for two. Back up and Dominik actually wins a test of strength, at least until Woods sweeps the leg to escape. They head outside, with Rhea getting between the two of them to quite the reaction.

We take a break and come back with Woods hammering away but getting knocked down for a fast two. Woods fights back up with the Honor Roll for two but Dominik grabs some Amigos. The frog

splash only hits raised knees though and Woods hits a gorilla press gutbuster for two more (as Ripley is looking nervous). Ripley breaks up the Limit Breaker so Woods dives onto Dominik on the floor instead. A Ripley cheap shot takes Woods down though and Dominik rolls him up for the pin at 11:01.

Rating: C+. The Dominik push continues to work well, as he is just good enough in the ring to get by but Ripley is perfect as his heater. There are a few places Dominik could go and that should make things interesting for him in the future. Woods isn't likely to win anything important on his own but he'll be fine when Kofi Kingston gets back.

Video on JD McDonagh.

McDonagh is leaving and says he attacked Dolph Ziggler to teach him a lesson: never bet against an ace.

Indus Sher vs. ???/Trey Thompson

Jinder Mahal is here with Sher. The non-Thompson is knocked silly with a shot to the face to start and it's quickly off to Thompson. A big jumping elbow and a hard whip into the corner sets up the old Smoking Gunns' Sidewinder of all things for the pin on Thompson at 1:51. Impressive squash, though "we're big foreign heels" doesn't have the longest shelf life.

Post match Mahal seems to promise more violence. After a replay, Mahal grabs a headset to say Sher runs this show. Then he grabs the mic to say the same thing in another language.

Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn are in the back when Imperium comes in. Gunther isn't happy with their disrespect and a six man is set for next week.

Here is Cody Rhodes for a chat. Cody gets right to the point and tells the story of the scorpion and the frog (scorpion doesn't trust the frog, the frog eventually agrees to take him across the river, scorpion stings him in the middle, ensuring

they're both going to do, just because stinging is his nature). It is Brock Lesnar's nature to hunt, but how is Lesnar's face feeling?

Cody is ready to face him at Night of Champions, even though the reality is Lesnar is better than 99.9% of the Superstars he faces. What seems to have Lesnar upset is that he was defeated, meaning he might not be the biggest game on Raw anymore. Maybe Lesnar isn't the big thing around here these days and it's time to say next. He's ready for Night Of Champions. Cody leaves, and signs some autographs on the way out in a great touch that isn't used often enough.

Zoey Stark is kind of mean to Nikki Cross and gets a match with Candice LeRae as a result. Cross looks....annoyed?

Raquel Rodriguez vs. Chelsea Green

Sonya Deville is here with Green. Rodriguez hits a big boot at the bell but a Deville distraction lets Green send her face first into the buckle. A basement dropkick cuts Rodriguez off again but she powers Green up into a reverse Alabama Slam onto the top rope. The clothesline comeback is on and the Texana Bomb finishes Green at 3:43.

Rating: C. That's a bit of a weird way to go for Green, who has been angling for a Tag Team Title shot. I'm fine with not having Rodriguez lose, but there was an easy way to have her get pinned due to the numbers game, which can be evened out when Liv Morgan is back. For now though, it could have been worse and they got out rather quickly so it could have been a lot worse.

Post match Ronda Rousey and Shayna Baszler appear and jump Rodriguez, promising to win the Women's Tag Team Titles.

Imperium shakes hands with Paul Heyman, who calls Roman Reigns.

We get the second half of the Seth Rollins interview, with Rollins talking about being a visionary and reinventing himself. This is the best part of his career and he's not sure why. Maybe it is the hard work, but for the first time, the fans got behind him and connected with him. That changed him and now it is time to give us a World Champion who is here for everyone. As for Roman Reigns...more next week.

Video on Apollo Crews. He runs a lot.

Judgment Day vs. Sami Zayn/Kevin Owens

Non-title. Balor and Zayn start things off rather slowly until Zayn snaps off some armdrags. Priest comes in to slug away but Owens comes in to punch him in the face. An enziguri staggers Priest, who misses a charge to the floor. Balor is sent outside as well, so here are Rhea Ripley and Dominik Mysterio to uneven things up as we take a break.

Back with Zayn in trouble but managing to send Balor into the corner. That's enough for the hot tag to Owens, who gets to clean house on everyone but Ripley. The cannonball hits Priest for two so Ripley and Dominik interfere. They're a bit slow though and get ejected, allowing Owens to superkick Priest down. Cue Xavier Woods to go after Dominik and they fight to the back, leaving Priest to roll Owens up...as Paul Heyman comes out.

We take another break and come back with Owens in trouble, including a middle rope legdrop/backbreaker combination. Owens knocks Priest off the ropes though and nails a Swanton for a double knockdown. The hot tag brings in Zayn and takes Balor down to hammer away. The Michinoku Driver gives Zayn two and the Blue Thunder Bomb gets the same.

Cue Imperium for a distraction, allowing Balor to hit 1916 for two. Owens comes back in (without a tag) to Stun Priest, leaving Zayn to suplex Balor into the corner. The Helluva Kick connects but Imperium offers a distraction. Owens takes them

out so Priest chokeslams Owens onto the apron. Zayn hits the big flip dive onto Priest but Gunther breaks up another Helluva Kick. Balor's shotgun dropkick sets up the Coup de Grace for the pin at 20:58.

Rating: B. This one had some vibes of a Paul Heyman produced match and it worked out well, with so many moving parts and pieces that all seemed to fit together. Heyman working with Imperium makes for some interesting future returns, but for now it was a good enough way to keep Owens and Zayn looking strong on the way to Night Of Champions. Solid main event here, and a good enough way to protect the champs, as Heyman is trying to get inside their heads again (shouldn't be hard with Zayn) before the title match.

Heyman is rather pleased and appears to call Roman Reigns to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. There was quite a bit going on with this show and it's kind of hard to keep track of everything. I liked having wrestlers appearing throughout the show, as having them disappear once their main match/segment of the night never made a ton of sense. Other than that, we had the Rousey/Baszler return and some stuff set up for Night Of Champions. What matters here is that the show still felt like it was structured despite coming off as a bit chaotic, which is more of a sign of the new WWE regime than the "classic" McMahon stuff.

Results

Shinsuke Nakamura b. The Miz – Kinshasa

Mustafa Ali won a battle royal last eliminating Bronson Reed and Ricochet

Dominik Mysterio b. Xavier Woods – Rollup

Indus Sher b. ???/Trey Thompson – Side slam/middle rope legdrop combination to Thompson

Raquel Rodriguez b. Chelsea Green – Texana Bomb

Judgment Day b. Kevin Owens/Sami Zayn – Coup de Grace to Zayn

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<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

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Daily News Update – May 15, 2023

Make sure you check out a recent review:

[Rampage – May 13, 2023](#)

VIDEO: LA Knight Has A Brand New Tag Team Partner (And It's Quite The Surprise).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-la-knight-brand-new-tag-team-partner-quite-surprise/>

He's Interested: AEW Is "Top Priority" For Free Agent Former

World Champion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-interested-aew-top-priority-free-agent-former-world-champion/>

Generational Battle? Alundra Blayze Slams Trish Stratus For Hurting Women's Wrestling.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/generational-battle-alundra-blayze-slams-trish-stratus-hurting-womens-wrestling/>

Not This Time: Interesting Notes On Roman Reigns' WWE Night Of Champions Title Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-time-interesting-notes-roman-reigns-night-champions-title-match/>

There's A Pair: 56 Year Old WWE Hall Of Famer Says He Would Love To Manage Indus Sher.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/theres-pair-56-year-old-wwf-hall-famer-says-love-manage-indus-sher/>

WATCH: Sami Zayn Opens Up About The Bloodline Story, Says His Part Is "More Or Less Done".

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-sami-zayn-opens-bloodline-story-says-part-done/>

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Rampage – May 13, 2023: I'm Getting Really Tired Of This

Rampage

Date: May 13, 2023

Location: Little Caesar's Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross

The shuffled up schedule continues as we are on at 10pm Saturday this week, again thanks to various playoffs. That has led to some less than thrilling cards in recent weeks but AEW has the ability to pull off a great one if given the chance. Hopefully they do that here so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Acclaimed/Billy Gunn vs. Butcher and the Blade/Kip Sabian

After a rap about how Butcher has the "worst mustache since Vince McMahon", we start fast with Blade getting caught in the wrong corner and backdropped out of it for a crash. Scissor Me Timbers makes it even worse as this is one sided so far. Butcher comes in to send Bowens hard into the corner as the fans want Gunn. We take a break and come back with Bowens kicking his way out of trouble and handing it back to Gunn. House is cleaned, including a powerslam on Blade. Everything breaks down and the Arrival into the Mic Drop finishes Blade at 8:13.

Rating: C. The Acclaimed continue to be perfectly fine choices to open the show, as the fans are still going to respond to anything they do. You could easily heat them up for a Trios Title match and that is probably where things are going. Other than that, Butcher and Blade are still a solid midcard team and Sabian continues to be a thing for reasons I don't quite

get.

QTV talks about AEW going to England and we cut to Powerhouse Hobbs, once again with his namesake book. He seems confident that he'll be back.

Toni Storm vs. Allysin Kay

The rest of the Outcasts are with Storm, who gets kicked down to start. Saraya grabs Kay's boot for a distraction though and Storm takes over. They head outside with Kay being sent into various things to keep her in trouble. Back in and Kay makes the comeback, including a hard clothesline for two. A sunset driver plants Storm but the Outcasts offer a distraction, allowing Storm to get two off a small package. Kay is sent into the corner for the hip attack, followed by Storm Zero for the pin at 4:58.

Rating: C. It was nice to have Kay around as she is someone who can work with anyone you put her in the ring with at any given time. Other than that, it is nice to see Storm getting a win as she hasn't had a showcase match in a bit. The Outcasts still aren't great, but Storm is the most successful member around here so featuring her makes sense.

The Gunns aren't happy about losing their titles or with shoddy refereeing but Ethan Page comes in. Page wants some help with something and the Gunns are in.

Action Andretti vs. Kyle Fletcher

Feeling out process to start with the bigger Fletcher powering Andretti around. Andretti comes back with a dropkick into a spinning moonsault for two. One heck of a running boot to the face sends Andretti outside though and we take a break. Back with Fletcher kicking him in the face for a rather arrogant two. Andretti grabs a super hurricanrana for two but Fletcher kicks him in the back of the head, setting up a spinning Tombstone for the pin at 9:19.

Rating: C. Well, it was much more impressive than Fletcher's match on Ring Of Honor two days ago, but it's still hard to buy into the idea of Fletcher being a serious threat to Orange Cassidy and the International Title. I'm still not sure why half of an outside tag team is getting a singles title shot but at least the match should be good. Andretti is about where I was expecting him to be, though he could use another win to give him another boost.

Here are the Hardys and Brother Zay (Isiah Kassidy) to brag about getting rid of the Firm. Now they want the Tag Team Titles but here are the Gunns to interrupt. They bring up Ethan Page, but Matt wants nothing to do with Page. He does have an idea though: a tag match between the teams, and when the Hardys win, Matt owns Page's contract. Deal, though I can't imagine that's what Page had in mind.

The Mogul Embassy and the Dark Order are ready for the main event.

Mogul Embassy vs. Dark Order

Swerve Strickland/Brian Cage vs. John Silver/Alex Reynolds, with Prince Nana and Evil Uno at ringside. Strickland sends Reynolds into the corner to start and snaps off the anklescissors but it's way too early for the Swerve Stomp. Silver comes in for a pose off with Cage before actually managing to give Cage a World's Strongest Slam. Swerve isn't having that though and low bridges Silver to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Silver reversing Cage's suplex into one of his own, allowing the double tag to Reynolds and Swerve. Reynolds gets to clean house, including a tiger driver into a piledriver for two on Strickland. The Stomp misses again and the Order hits their sequence into the rollup for two, with Cage making the save.

Cage pulls Silver's dive out of the air and drives him into

various things, allowing Swerve to get in a kick to the back of the head. Back in and Cage powerbombs Reynolds, setting up an F5/cutter combination....for two. Why? On what planet is it acceptable for Alex Reynolds to kick out of a sequence like that? Silver comes in for an enziguri to Cage and Reynolds is back up to kick Swerve in the face. Cage isn't having that though and it's the JML Driver/Drill Claw for the stereo pins at 10:29.

Rating: C+. The match was good enough, but they lost me with Reynolds kicking out of what could be an awesome double team finisher. If they were just going to have the pin take place about a minute later, why even bother doing the big spot? Other than that, it was the Dark Order making a bigger team sweat a bit before falling short, which is more or less their last year plus.

Post match the Gates of Agony come in to beat up Evil Uno. Keith Lee and Dustin Rhodes come out with various metal objects to chase off the villains to end the show. Lee and Strickland starting having issues in November and were officially done in December. Why have they not had a singles match yet?

Overall Rating: C. The spring of punting continues, as AEW somehow manages to make Rampage feel even less important week after week. There were things happening here and the wrestling was completely fine, but there is a grand total of nothing that you need to see on this show, either in the ring or from a storytelling position. It's ok to have something happen in a big story around here, because all of the lower level stories that get time around here are at a lower level for a reason. These shows get old fast, and that has been the case with Rampage for too long now.

Results

Acclaimed/Billy Gunn b. Butcher and the Blade/Kip Sabian – Mic Drop to Blade

Toni Storm b. Allysin Kay – Storm Zero
Kyle Fletcher b. Action Andretti – Spinning Tombstone
Mogul Embassy b. Dark Order – Double pin

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Daily News Update – May 13, 2023

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[Ring Of Honor TV – May 11, 2023](#)

[Smackdown – May 12, 2023](#)

For The First Time: WWE World Heavyweight Championship Match Set For Night Of Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/first-time-wwe-world-heavyweight-championship-match-set-night-champions/>

They're In: Roman Reigns Set For Very Different Title Match At Night Of Champions.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/theyre-roman-reigns-set-different-title-match-night-champions/>

Around The World: WWE In Discussions To Hold Major International Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/around-world-wwe-discussions-hold-major-international-event/>

Round Two: Injured WWE Star Undergoes Second Neck Fusion Surgery.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/round-two-injured-wwe-star-undergoes-second-neck-surgery/>

Of Course He Is: Top AEW Star Reportedly Banged Up Following Violent Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/course-top-aew-star-reportedly-banged-following-violent-match/>

WATCH SmackDown Star Turns Heel By Blinding Champion In Surprise Attack.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/side-smackdown-star-turns-heel-blinding-attack-champion/>

WRESTLING RUMOR: WWE Changing Entrance Themes In Coming Months.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumor-wwe-changing-entrance-themes-coming-months/>

New Plan: WWE Has Changed Its Process For Negotiating New Contracts For Wrestlers.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-plan-wwe-changed-process-negotiating-new-contracts-wrestlers/>

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Smackdown – May 12, 2023: Works As A One Off

Smackdown

Date: May 12, 2023

Location: Thompson-Bowling Arena, Knoxville, Tennessee

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

It's tournament week again as we have the Smackdown half of the World Heavyweight Championship tournament. That means two more triple threat matches with the winners having a singles match, with the winner of that facing Seth Rollins at Night Of Champions for the title. Other than that, Roman Reigns is back so let's get to it.

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

World Heavyweight Championship Tournament First Round: Rey Mysterio vs. Edge vs. AJ Styles

Only Edge gets an entrance and they start with Edge's sunset flip to Styles sending Rey flying. After that fairly complicated start, a more simplistic Edge-0-Matic gets two on Styles. Back up and Styles hits the sliding forearm on Edge,

followed by a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two on Rey. Barrett points out that these three have NINETY YEARS of experience between them and now I just feel old. Rey gets in a few kicks of his own, only to get fall away slammed by Edge.

The spear is broken up by a double kick to the face before Rey hurricanranas Styles into the corner. A Code Red gets two on Edge but AJ sends Rey to the floor. Edge catches Rey in a hanging DDT, with AJ hitting a dropkick to drive them both down as we take a break. Back with Edge hitting a double spear through the ropes and to the floor for the crash. With Edge down, Styles grabs the Calf Crusher on Rey but Edge adds a Crossface at the same time. Edge and Styles headbutt each other to break it up and the non-Mysterio guys slug it out.

Mysterio tries a 619 but gets caught with a double dropkick to leave everyone down again. Back up and they go to the corner for the sunset bomb into the Tower of Doom and a big crash. Edge is up first and Edgicates Mysterio before switching it over to Styles. The rope is reached (means nothing in a triple threat) so Rey hits a 619 to Edge. Rey goes up and gets...kind of speared out of the air (Edge wasn't ready so it looked like Rey tried a top rope DDT and Edge didn't go down instead of a spear). Styles hits the Phenomenal Forearm to finish Edge at 16:12.

Rating: B. I was getting into this one by the end and it felt like a major match. That is no surprise given who was in the match as you have three people with this kind of talent and success over the years. Styles going forward is a bit of a surprise as I would have bet on Edge, but there was no bad option here.

We recap the Usos' recent losses, though they did win at Backlash, albeit with Solo Sikoa on the team as well.

World Heavyweight Championship Tournament First Round: Bobby Lashley vs. Austin Theory vs. Sheamus

Non-title and Theory rolls outside to start, only for the other two to send him back inside. Back in and Theory gets clotheslined to the floor again, allowing Lashley to knock Sheamus into the corner for a running shoulder to the ribs. Sheamus is fine enough to knock Lashley to the apron for the forearms to the chest, followed by even more to Theory.

We take a break and come back with Lashley sending Theory into the post. Back in and Lashley drops Sheamus with a clothesline but runs into a raised boot in the corner. Lashley is right back with a belly to belly suplex but Theory comes back in to clean house. Sheamus shrugs that off and runs Theory over, setting up a super White Noise for two.

Back in and a bleeding Lashley spears Sheamus but gets sent into the post so Theory can get two. Theory elbows Lashley in the head but A Town Down is countered into a spinebuster. The Hurt Lock goes on until Sheamus Brogue Kicks Theory. Lashley sends Sheamus outside and pins Theory at 12:58.

Rating: B-. Not quite as good as the opener but Styles vs. Lashley should make a heck of a showdown later tonight. Sheamus vs. Lashley worked with the power and Theory was there to be a bit more than a pest, who was trying to steal the win where he could. I would have thought Sheamus was there to take the pin but why do that when you can have a champion who is starting to put it together do it instead?

Grayson Waller comes up to Adam Pearce and asks to have the winner of Styles vs. Lashley on the Grayson Waller Effect (talk show) next week. Sure.

Baron Corbin vs. Cameron Grimes

Before the match Corbin says in about two minutes, Grimes is going to want to go back to NXT. The Cave In (standing double stomp) finishes Corbin at 6 seconds. Well that worked.

Here is the Bloodline in full force to open things up. Reigns

is rather happy here and says the people in this ring main evented both nights of Wrestlemania, which will never be done again. He's also very pleased with Solo Sikoa for stepping up at Backlash. There was some worry about bringing Sikoa up to the main roster so fast because you can sink or swim. Sikoa swims like a shark though, because he deals with problems. Look at the Riddle problem! Sikoa mentions Sami Zayn and Kevin Owens, which has Reigns pleased because Sikoa is still thinking ahead.

We pause for the SAMI chant but Reigns says Sami and Owens aren't a problem anymore. There is a problem though, and that is Sikoa's brothers. Reigns wants to know what they thought was going to happen. Were they just going to lose in the main event of Wrestlemania and then lose the rematch (dedicated to Reigns) and not talk about it? Why are they dedicating a tag match to a singles wrestler? There are Hall of Fame tag teams in their family but they dedicated it to him?

Reigns doesn't want to hear anything from them but an apology, though the fans aren't sure about that. If Reigns was the Usos, he would just apologize, though Jimmy starts to laugh. Reigns shoves him in the face and Paul Heyman gets (halfway) out of the ring. The fans chant something that has to be censored but Jey gets between Reigns and Jimmy. Jey apologizes for the team and says they'll bring the titles back with one more shot.

Reigns likes the idea and has Heyman fill the Usos in: at Night Of Champions, it's Reigns/Sikoa vs. Zayn/Owens for the Tag Team Titles (Jey spinning around at the announcement is great). Reigns dedicates the victory and the title reign to the greatest team of all time: the Wild Samoans (his uncle and father). Cool surprise, though undermining the Draft less than two weeks in is something even for WWE.

Damage Ctrl is ready to win the Women's Tag Team Titles, though Iyo Sky is not thrilled at first.

The Usos don't like the Latino World Order laughing at them so Rey Mysterio and Santos Escobar come up to laugh even more. Jey has to walk away while hitting things.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Damage Ctrl vs. Liv Morgan/Raquel Rodriguez

Morgan and Rodriguez are defending and Rodriguez powers Kai into the corner to start. Morgan comes in for a running shot in the corner, followed by the same from Rodriguez. We see Isla Dawn and Alba Fyre watching in the back as Bayley comes in with a clothesline for two. We take a break and come back with Rodriguez fighting out of trouble and bringing Morgan back in.

Rodriguez uses Morgan as a battering ram (with Morgan waving at the fans) but Kai manages to come off the top with a Meteora/powerbomb from Bayley combination to plant Morgan for a rather delayed two. Rodriguez cuts off Sky bringing in a belt, allowing Morgan to roll Kai up to retain at 8:47.

Rating: C. The match went fine as Damage Ctrl's issues continue. That could lead to something interesting and I'm curious to see where it does go. At the same time, the tease of the two Women's Tag Team Champions facing off and hopefully unifying their titles is a nice possibility and something that needs to happen. If nothing else, it would be nice to have a fresh match for the bigger stage.

Sheamus is upset at his loss when Pretty Deadly comes in. Pretty Deadly introduces themselves but are filling out forms to figure out who everyone is. The rest of the Brawling Brutes aren't pleased with various insults to their intelligence, so a match seems imminent.

Here is Bianca Belair for a rather orange and white (University of Tennessee colors) championship celebration. Before she can say anything though, here is Asuka to mist her, because the Wrestlemania loss meant nothing. A trainer comes

out to check on Belair.

Post break, Belair is still being checked on.

World Heavyweight Championship Tournament Semifinals: AJ Styles vs. Bobby Lashley

The winner gets Seth Rollins for the title at Night Of Champions. Lashley, with a big bump on his head, tries to back Styles into the corner but Styles bobs and weaves away. Styles finally gets caught in the corner for some elbows to the neck as Lashley takes over. They head outside with Lashley posting him as we take a break.

Back with Styles grabbing the Calf Crusher before switching to a DDT for two. Lashley muscled him up with a lifting Downward Spiral for two but his knee might have given out. Styles hits the sliding forearm but misses a charge and gets Hurt Locked. The rope breaks that up as Lashley is busted open again. Styles is able to post Lashley for a change and knocks him into it again for a bonus. The Phenomenal Forearm is cut off back inside and Lashley's running powerslam gets two more. The spear only hits post though and now the Phenomenal Forearm can send Styles to Night Of Champions at 12:01.

Rating: B. Another good back and forth match here and we should be in for a heck of a showdown between Styles and Rollins at Night Of Champions. Styles is someone you can slot into any title match and have it work out well and that was the case here. Beating Lashley still means a lot and it felt like a big time main event to set up the even bigger title match.

We run down the Night Of Champions card.

The OC comes out to celebrate with Styles to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. Much like Raw and NXT, this show was about the tournaments with the new stars being slipped in where they

could. That worked rather well here with three rather good TV matches and a fun debut for Grimes. At the same time, Pretty Deadly and Fyre/Dawn seem to have something ready to go, making this another efficient show. They won't be able to do something like this every week, but I'll certainly take it as a very good one off.

Results

AJ Styles b. Edge and Rey Mysterio – Phenomenal Forearm to Edge

Bobby Lashley b. Austin Theory and Sheamus – Brogue Kick to Theory

Cameron Grimes b. Baron Corbin – Cave In

Liv Morgan/Raquel Rodriguez b. Damage Ctrl – Rollup to Kai

AJ Styles b. Bobby Lashley – Phenomenal Forearm

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Ring Of Honor TV – May 11, 2023: Nope.

Ring Of Honor

Date: May 11, 2023

Location: Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman, Nigel McGuinness

We're back in the studio again rather than in front of the fans who paid to see Dynamite, meaning Tony Khan can cram in even more stuff this week. There is at least a big main event this week as Athena defends the Women's Title against Skye Blue. That should be quite the showdown and Blue has been built up as a challenger. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Shane Taylor vs. Mark Briscoe

Briscoe should get the fans fired up pretty well. Mark knocks him down to start so Shane threatens to beat him worse than he used to beat up Jay. Taylor sends him to the apron and a slingshot is countered into a hanging Stunner to take over. The rapid fire shots to the face put Taylor on the floor though and there's the running flip dive to drop Taylor again.

Briscoe loads up the chair for the launchpad but Taylor is right there to cut him off again. More trash talk sets up the chops, plus a heck of a forearm to knock Briscoe silly. Back up and Briscoe strikes his way out of the corner, including a running boot to put him down. Taylor misses a running knee and gets Pele'd to the floor, setting up Briscoe's running shot, including the launchpad chair.

Back in and Briscoe manages a Death Valley Driver, only to

miss the Froggy Bow. Troubled Land gives Taylor two of his own but he misses a middle rope splash. Taylor is way too big for the Jay Driller so he runs Briscoe over and hits a splash for two. They slug it out until Briscoe manages to drop him with a running lariat. A not exactly smooth (fair enough) Jay Driller finishes Taylor at 9:46.

Rating: B-. These two beat the heck out of each other and I was getting into it pretty quickly. What made this more interesting was that while Briscoe was a star, I could picture Taylor scoring an upset. That's a hard thing to pull off but they made it work here, and it was a heck of a match as a result.

Claudio Castagnoli/Wheeler Yuta vs. Tracy Williams/Rhett Titus

Yuta and Williams grapple off to start until Williams gets him into a kneebar. That's broken up by Castagnoli, who comes in to crank away on Williams for a change. An elbow hits the now legal Titus, who is fine enough to clothesline Yuta down. Castagnoli has had it with this and stomps away on Williams in the corner as things get more aggressive.

Williams tries to fight back but gets elbowed in the corner for his efforts. A DDT onto the top turnbuckle drops Yuta though and the hot tag brings in Titus to clean house. Everything breaks down and Castagnoli gets knocked outside, setting up a knee from the apron. Yuta pokes Williams in the eye though and it's a Rocket Launcher to give Yuta the pin at 8:06.

Rating: C+. This felt like a way to set up Castagnoli and Yuta for a Tag Team Title match against the Lucha Bros as Castagnoli earned on Dynamite. Other than that, Williams and Titus continue to be little more than punching bags around here. You would think there would be a better use for them in a tag division that isn't exactly strong, yet here they are instead.

Television Title: Samoa Joe vs. Blake Christian

Joe is defending and Christian bails to the floor to start. Back in and Christian gets in a few shots to take over, including going after Joe's knee. That's not cool with Joe though, as he takes Christian down and stomps away to take over. The neck crank goes on but Christian slips out of a powerbomb. Joe powerslams him for two instead but Christian jawbreaks his way out of the Koquina Clutch. Not that it matters as Joe finishes with the MuscleBuster at 4:01.

Rating: C. They didn't have time to do anything here and Christian's offense didn't exactly get him anywhere. This felt like a way to get Joe on the show, which doesn't have quite the same impact when he was on the show just last week. Joe is a monster, but he needs a serious challenger sooner rather than later.

Mark Sterling and the Trustbusters/Varsity Athletes don't like the Dark Order and are ready to crush them.

Infantry vs. Righteous

Dean armdrags Vincent down a few times but gets run over with a hard shoulder. Bravo comes in and some rapid fire double teaming has Vincent down as Stu Grayson comes out to watch. Vincent comes back with a running basement Downward Spiral to Dean but it's right back to Bravo to pick up the pace. Everything breaks down and Dutch gets to wreck people, setting up the assisted Autumn Sunshine to finish Bravo at 4:29.

Rating: C. We're pretty much where we were at the Supercard of Honor pre-show: the Righteous are weird and stalk Grayson for some reason. That being said, it's nice to have the Righteous getting in there to build themselves up a bit, as they haven't exactly gotten to do much since they have been back. They could be something if given the chance, but they have to get somewhere with the Grayson stuff first.

Video on the Kingdom vs. Darius Martin/Action Andretti in a Fight Without Honor.

Robyn Renegade vs. Vert Vixen

Charlotte Renegade is here with Robyn. Vixen starts fast but a Charlotte distraction lets Robyn knock her into the corner. A rolling Stunner cuts Robyn off again but something like an Octopus on the mat finishes Vixen out of nowhere at 2:55. I like the Renegades, so giving them a quick win like this helps.

The Mogul Embassy (apparently the new name for the Gates of Agony, as they somehow get a worse name) is ready to face the Boys...but Dalton Castle comes in to accuse them of taking out one such Boy.

Ninja Mack vs. Willie Mack

Willie wrestles him to the mat as we get a Kung Fu Fighting reference to really screw things up. They trade flips and misses until it's a standoff as we get various pop culture references from commentary. Willie sends him outside for the big flip dive, plus a whip into the steps. Back in and Ninja kicks away, setting up a running uppercut. A twisting splash gets two on Willie, who is right back with the Samoan drop into the standing moonsault for two. They trade more rollups for two each until Willie hits a sitout powerbomb for the pin at 6:12.

Rating: B-. Good action throughout, but it's a little hard to get excited about another guy who does a bunch of flips after seeing El Hijo del Vikingo and Kommander on a semi regular basis around the various shows in recent weeks. Willie was his usual good self and it was a fun match, as you might have expected it to be.

Mogul Embassy vs. Adam Priest/Lucky Ali/Victor Benjamin

Non-title and Prince Nana is here with the Embassy. Kaun runs Priest over to start before it's off to Cage to elbow him in the face. Ali comes in with a bunch of hype from Coleman and is promptly superkicked into the corner. It's off to Toa to run Benjamin over and everything breaks down in a hurry. The Gates' double clothesline to Priest allows them to drop Benjamin onto him for a double pin at 3:22.

Rating: C-. I continue to be amazed by the idea that someone thinks Ring Of Honor needs six man titles. AEW doesn't need them either but the minor league promotion gets their own set? There is no division and challengers have to be set up to get mauled by Cage and the most generic power team imaginable. This was every squash the Embassy (who have been officially called three different names on this show: the Embassy, the Mogul Embassy and Brian Cage/the Gates of Agony) you have seen and there is no reason to see another one.

Kyle Fletcher vs. Tony Deppen

This would be the build up for Fletcher before he loses to Orange Cassidy next week and Mark Davis is here with Fletcher. Commentary spends the entrances listing off a bunch of teams Fletcher and Davis have beaten, none of whom work here. They go with the grappling to start and Fletcher gets the better of things on the mat. Back up and Deppen's shoulder bounces off of him before Fletcher runs him down without much trouble.

Something close to a Codebreaker gives Deppen two and he slaps Fletcher in the corner. Fletcher isn't having that and strikes him down for two, only to get caught in a slingshot Stunner to the floor. Deppen's sliding forearm to the back of the head gets two and they forearm it out again. Deppen German suplexes him into the corner and hits a running knee for two. Fletcher is right back up with a Michinoku Driver for the pin at 9:04.

Rating: B-. Well, I think a lot more of Deppen after that match. With Fletcher getting a title shot next week, this

should have been a lot more dominant performance from a tag wrestler getting into the singles scene, but instead they went back and forth, leaving me with even less reason to believe Fletcher will beat Cassidy. I'm sure their match will work well, but this was a bad result for helping to build the drama.

Anthony Henry vs. AR Fox

JD Drake is here with Henry. An early Drake distraction lets Henry take Fox down but Fox sends him outside for his efforts. The suicide dive connects and the big flip dive takes out Drake and Henry at the same time. Back in and a twisting suplex gives Fox two but Henry grabs a piledriver on the apron to knock...oh of course it doesn't knock Fox silly, because it's just a piledriver on the apron.

Fox is back to his feet less than 40 seconds later so Henry gives him a regular piledriver for two. This time Fox is back up even faster so Henry rolls some brainbusters, only to have Fox reverse into one of his own. Fox hits a Swanton for two but gets caught in a slingshot brainbuster for two more. Henry grabs a choke but Fox slips out and catches him on top, setting up a cutter for another near fall. Fox takes out an interfering Drake, hits him with a big running flip dive, and grabs Lo Mein Pain. The 450 finishes Henry at 9:39.

Rating: D. Nope. Say I'm old and out of touch, say I don't know good wrestling or whatever you want. This was stupid, made it clear that nothing they are doing is real, and was a huge waste of time on a show that is already crammed full of stuff that doesn't need to be on here. All Fox showed me here was that he's a video game superhero come to life in a wrestling ring and that modern wrestling is a stunt show rather than about putting on a compelling match. I've seen Fox do very well before, but this was either an off night or terrible agenting, because it was little more than Fox showing off and not selling much of anything.

Post match Henry and Drake beat on Fox with Shane Taylor coming in to help with the beating. FTR makes the save as I wonder why I should believe anything is going to hurt Fox after dropping him on his head four times in a row didn't really slow him down. Just to show how awesome he is, Fox is fine enough to hit a Swanton on Henry after FTR drops him. Henry tries to leave but Eddie Kingston cuts him off, allowing FTR to hit the Shatter Machine.

Varsity Athletes/Trustbusters vs. Dark Order

Mark Sterling and Ari Daivari here with the non-Dark Order. Uno chops Woods down to start and it's quickly off to Reynolds, with Uno seemingly avoiding Grayson. Sterling gets on the apron and is quickly pulled off, only to have Silver taken into the wrong corner for some cheating. Silver wheelbarrow suplexes Kay for a breather and dives over to Grayson for the hot tag.

The big flipping dive takes out some villains on the floor and a Lionsault gets two on Slim J back inside. Slim J sends Uno into Grayson as everything breaks down. A string of strikes rocks Slim J, setting up the Fatality to give Reynolds the pin (with Grayson being knocked outside in the melee) at 6:05.

Rating: C+. At least they're keeping the Dark Order around here instead of on Dynamite. I still have no idea why the Varsity Athletes and the Trustbusters need to be featured so often but the match wasn't all that long and they didn't talk, both of which do help a bit. The tension between Uno and Grayson lasted for all of 14 seconds, though I'd assume the Righteous being around will help with that a good bit.

Post match Grayson is on the floor and doesn't look happy.

Skye Blue isn't impressed with Athena and is ready for the title shot tonight.

Ring Of Honor Women's Title: Athena vs. Skye Blue

Athena is defending and drops Blue with an early forearm. They trade flips out of headscissors but Athena kicks her in the face to take over again. A lot of yelling at the referee leaves Athena distracted enough to get rolled up for two so she knocks Blue outside. The steps are loaded up but Athena gets sent into them instead.

They fight to the stage with Blue snapping off a headscissors but Athena saves herself from falling. Instead Athena superkicks her off the stage before they head inside for a bow and arrow. Some rollups give Blue a bunch of near falls as commentary says that's pretty much the only way she can win (what a vote of confidence). A kick to the head and a high crossbody give Blue two but Athena kicks her down again.

The O Face is broken up and a super hurricanrana brings Athena back down. There's a standing Sliced Bread for two on the champ but Skyfall is broken up. Athena hits a Wasteland backbreaker but Blue slaps her in the face from the mat. They slug it out until Athena hits her own Skyfall for two. Blue is right back with a top rope Stunner into Skyfall for two of her own.

They fight to the apron with Blue dropping her face first, only to get powerbombed from the middle rope onto the steps (on their side). Back in and Blue kicks out at one, only to have Athena grab a Crossface. With Blue too close to the ropes, Athena reverses into a reverse chinlock to retain at 14:43.

Rating: B. This got going at the end and once they got around the idea of "Blue can only win off a rollup". Blue was the first serious competition Athena has faced in a long time and it wound up being a rather good match. Athena really is at the best level of his career, though I have no idea who is supposed to be a threat to her unless someone comes over from AEW.

Post match Athena shows respect...and then beats up Blue, including sending her face first into the title to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This was everything that frustrates me about Ring Of Honor in one show: there is good stuff included, but instead of just sticking with that, they just adding more and more stuff in and I stopped caring a long time before the ending. There were multiple matches were I was wondering why in the world this needed to be on here, other than just making the show go longer and longer. I'm sure that's great for the people who are getting on the show and getting a check for it, but it doesn't make for an entertaining show.

I get that you need to boost people up and get them ready for later, but with no major show even hinted at for the moment (I'm sure the Anniversary Show is coming up this summer but it hasn't been talked about yet), why do they need to cram in so much every week? It's the definition of subtraction by addition, as the matches that keep piling up drag down the good stuff (which is certainly there). Throw in a Fox match that had me almost yelling at my laptop and this was an annoying show that could have been a rather good one given what else was there.

Results

Mark Briscoe b. Shane Taylor – Jay Driller

Claudio Castagnoli/Wheeler Yuta b. Tracy Williams/Rhett Titus – Rocket Launcher to Williams

Samoa Joe b. Blake Christian – MuscleBuster

Righteous b. Infantry – Assisted Autumn Sunshine to Bravo

Robyn Renegade b. Vert Vixen – Octopus

Mogul Embassy b. Adam Priest/Lucky Ali/Victor Benjamin – Double pin

Willie Mack b. Ninja Mack – Sitout powerbomb

Kyle Fletcher b. Tony Deppen – Michinoku Driver

AR Fox b. Anthony Henry – 450

Dark Order b. Varsity Athletes/Trustbusters – Fatality to Slim

J

Athena b. Skye Blue – Reverse chinlock

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