

Daily News Update – April 18, 2022

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Zicky Dice's Trouble In Paradise 2: It's Either Fun Or Not Fun

Zicky Dice's Trouble In Paradise 2

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Jonny Loquasto, Zick Dicey, Matthew Rehwoldt

This is another of the Wrestlemania Weekend shows and in this case, it is another WrestleCon show. I didn't actually take this one in as I went to Axxess instead and I'm not sure what this is going include. That can make for some very fun shows as well and hopefully that is the case again. Let's get to it.

The opening video features Zicky Dice standing on a train track as the Outlandish Paradise Express train comes straight

for him. Dice whips out some, uh, dice, and throws them at the train, which explodes.

We meet the commentary team, which includes Zick Dicey, a puppet, who isn't mic'd well. They aren't thrilled with waiting so long on ring announcer Chris Van Vliet taking his sweet time getting to the ring.

Van Vliet finally comes to the ring (about eight minutes into the broadcast) to fire up the crowd, including those watching on Twitch (where the original broadcast took place). The opening video plays on the screen and here is Zicky Dice himself. Dice is fired up to be here, partially because it's a tax write off. He doesn't have a match tonight so send him Lex Luger or Bret Hart. The open challenge to anyone upstairs at WrestleCon is on to anyone with a broken hip or any old guy.

Cue Matt Cardona, who is mad over Dice crashing the Major Figures Pod last night. Cardona asks who the f*** is paying him to be here, asking if it's Dice, Twitch, Mike from WrestleCon or whoever else. Dice may be the King of the Internet but he's the Internet Champion and should be out there. That's cool with Dice, who references Chelsea Green and a banana before issuing the challenge for an Impact Wrestling Digital Media Title shot. Let's do a Twitch sub goal and make it falls count anywhere. Game on.

Impact Wrestling Digital Media Title: Matt Cardona vs. Zicky Dice

Dice is challenging and it's falls count anywhere. Cardona tries Radio Silence to start but gets powerbombed down for an early two. They go to the floor and trade slams until Cardona is whipped hard into the steps. Back in and Cardona spits some water in his face so Dice puts his hands into his own trunks, only to have Cardona shove them into his mouth.

Cardona goes to hammer away in the corner but gets bit in the leg and tossed to the floor. They fight into the crowd with

Dice hitting a suplex on the concrete for two. Things move into the lobby (where Chelsea Green can be seen going up the escalator), where Cardona hits a Reboot against the steps to retain at 5:38.

Rating: C. This was a bit of a disappointment as they didn't do much with the stipulation, but I can understand the idea of not being able to brawl around a rather fancy hotel. At the same time, they were trying to get Dice on the show and Cardona is a pretty big name compared to the rest of the card. Not exactly a great match, but it felt big enough for something like this.

Post match Cardona hits him with a sign, sending Dice riding up the escalator.

The puppet's mic has been fixed.

Deonn Rusman vs. Jonah Turk

Turk is a rather large man (weighing in at "a metric ton of love") and apparently someone Dice does not like on his Twitch stream. Rusman shoves Turk into the corner to start and a single shoulder puts Turk down again. Turk manages to run him over for a breather though and goes to the middle rope. That means a powerbomb out of the corner, setting up a spear to give Rusman the pin at 2:49. Turk getting in the ring seemed to be a joke for Dice's Twitch stream so you can't get too mad at a nothing match here.

Post match Rusman spears him again for fun.

Jah-C vs. Levi Shapiro vs. Keita Murray vs. Lord Crewe vs. Carlie Bravo vs. Darian Bengston

One fall to a finish because we need a (Sensational Sextuplet) Scramble match. Bengston ("the Shakespeare geek") gets jumped from behind to start and tossed to the floor, which at least clears the ring for a bit. Keita stands in the corner and

warms up while the other four brawl inside. That means a big double middle finger from Keita, earning him a four way boot to the face. We settle down to Shapiro powerslamming Jah-C but Bravo is up to clean house.

Crewe and Bravo slug it out with Crewe dropping him, only to get jumped by Bengston. We settle down to Crewe vs. Shapiro before they start to powerbombing Jah-C and Bravo. The other four get back in for stereo double belly to back suplexes and everyone is down. Jah-C DDTs Keita into the corner but Shapiro pulls him outside. That earns Shapiro a crotching on the top and it's time for the string of flip dives. Shapiro cuts off the referee's dive (Loquasto: "I don't know what is going on here.") but the second attempt connects to wipe out the pile on the floor.

Back in and Bengston hits a tiger driver 98 on Bravo but the referee gets pulled out. There's the required Tower of Doom, allowing Bravo to come off the top with a splash for two. Crewe gets to clean house for a bit before we hit a short form version of the parade of secondary (I think?) finishers. Jah-C Finally hits a superkick to finish Bengston at 11:18.

Rating: C+. I have never been a fan of this kind of match as there are a bunch of people flying around and trying their best to get some spotlight while also having to sell for everyone else. That doesn't make for the best match and that was the case again here. There were some cool spots, as always, but no one got to stand out in the slightest. That can get a bit old and it isn't like anyone gets much out of something like this other than an appearance.

Everyone but Bengston leaves so here are the New Japan LA Dojo to beat Bengston down. Bengston is out of the Factory and the two schools aren't getting along. Fair enough.

Lince Dorado vs. Black Taurus

Dorado's new gimmick seems to be that he is a marijuana

enthusiast, though he does stop to say hello to superfan Vladimir (of the unreleased documentary fame). Neither of them can get a hurricanrana to start so Dorado offers Taurus a puff. With that not working, Dorado dropkicks him to the floor but the running flip dive is pulled out of the air. A powerbomb sends Dorado into the barricade, with commentary saying "when you mess with the bull, sometimes you get the horns and sometimes you get powerbombed into the barricade".

Taurus sends him into the barricade a few times and then hits Dorado square in the mask. Back in and Dorado can't get a cross armbreaker so he settles for a German suplex and a springboard moonsault press for two each. Taurus is right back with a pop up Samoan drop for two of his own but Dorado grabs the Golden Rewind. A crucifix bomb drops Taurus and Dorado hits a pair of moonsaults to send him outside.

That's fine with Dorado, who hits a big dive to the floor. Back in and a poisonrana plants Taurus for two more but Taurus hits a powerbomb backbreaker to cut Dorado off fast. They go to the same corner, where Dorado snaps off a super hurricanrana and lands on his feet, because of course he can do that. A shooting star press gives Dorado the pin at 12:04.

Rating: B-. I liked this one more than I was expecting to as the power vs. speed formula works again. The Lucha Lit gimmick for Dorado might not have the longest shelf life but it certainly gets your attention, at least in the short term. Taurus continues to feel like a huge monster and while it is a big weird to see him lose here, he should be fine going forward just by letting him beat people up.

Post match they share some of Dorado's....stuff.

Mike Bailey vs. Effy

Submission match. Bailey sneaks up behind him to start and hits the big flip dive to the floor. They go into the stands where Effy chokes but gets pulled into a cross armbreaker. An

STF, using a chair (that's a new one), has Effy in trouble for a bit before they head inside for some chops to stagger Effy some more. Back up and Effy ducks a kick to the face and tries a rollup as he forgets the rules.

Instead Effy tries a leg choke in the corner before trying a kneebar...but he doesn't know what he's doing so Bailey laughs at him. They slap each other with Bailey getting the better of things so Effy goes with an atomic drop. A backdrop sets up something like a dragon sleeper but Bailey slips out and spins him into a rather nasty Deathlock. With that not working, Effy is sent outside for the big dive as per Bailey's custom.

Speaking of customs, Bailey misses his moonsault knees onto the apron, allowing Effy to wrap the knee around the post. Back in and Effy bites Bailey's chest but gets taken down for the moonsault knees. The Ultimate Weapon connects for Bailey so he grabs a rear naked choke, which is reversed into...Effy biting the toe (after removing the boot and licking the sole) and Bailey taps at 13:07.

Rating: D+. I don't know if I don't get Effy or if I was missing the joke here but this really didn't work. It was built around the comedy, but the comedy wasn't working here. I've heard good things about Effy and I've seen him do some fun stuff before, though I couldn't get into this one. Then again it might be due to getting sick of Bailey after so many matches from him this weekend.

Commentary recaps the night so far.

Masha Slamovich vs. The Bear

This was billed as an actual bear but we get...Parrow, who brings out a guy in a bear costume. The Bear is billed as being from Jellystone Park, though the fact that his graphic says Scotty 2 Hotty would suggest otherwise. Granted a previous graphic read "The Bear (Max The Impaler)" kind of killed the mood. The Bear beats up the handlers so Masha

throws marshmallows at him, only to have the Bear grab a bearhug (you knew that was coming).

Masha gets thrown around even more but the referee gets a marshmallow in his face. A German suplex gives Masha a breather but she gets thrown down for trying a choke. Therefore, she tries to use the referee to appear bigger, as you do to deal with a bear. More of the Bear costume comes off before Masha chokes again and the Bear is out at 6:38.

Rating: D+. It wasn't as long as the previous match but this one felt like they had a single joke but didn't realize that they had to do something with it. The Bear looked good to start but then it was the same stuff over and over until Masha won with the fifth or so choke. This needed more jokes in the ring rather than on commentary and I wasn't getting into it very well.

Rich Swann vs. Scotty 2 Hotty

Well it's certainly a unique main event. Swann dances through the crowd on the way to the ring, as he tends to do. After the Big Match Intros, Scotty takes his hat off and throws it to Swann, who puts it on and then throws it over to the referee so we can get going. They take their time touching fingers to start and finally lock up. We hear about their histories and resumes before Rehwoldt talks about Scotty giving him the Worm before he debuted in NXT.

Swann kicks him into the corner to turn things a bit more serious but Scotty hands in the ropes (ala Andrade) to avoid a trip to the floor. A suplex drops Swann and that means the Moonwalk. The armbar keeps Swann in trouble for a bit but he sends Scotty outside for a change. Scotty is sat in a chair so Swann can run around the ring for a kick to the face.

It works so well that he does it again before cranking on both arms back inside. Scotty fights up for the dancing right hand but Swann is right back with the running flip ax kick. That

doesn't do Swann much good though as Scotty hits the bulldog that sets up the Worm. That sets up the Worm to give Scotty a pretty big upset at 9:20.

Rating: C. This is the definition of a fun main event and that's all it needed to be. Scotty looked good in the ring and certainly didn't appear to have anything resembling ring rust, which is more than I would have expected. Not a great match or anything, but I can see why this was something people, including me, would want to see.

Respect is shown post match. Swann goes to leave but hang on, because it is time to dance. Rehwoldt: "The options are yes or h*** yes. Take your pick." The referee gets to play Rikishi for the big moment.

We cut to Zicky Dice in the back where he wants the stream started over as he rapidly thanks the sponsors to wrap it up.

A highlight reel finally ends the show.

Overall Rating: C. This is a show where it was never going to be a classic but it wasn't supposed to be. Instead, we got about two and a half hours of fun stuff with some pretty decent wrestling included. It isn't a show I'll ever need to see again, but if you wanted a nice start to the most packed day of the WrestleCon schedule, this was a good way to go. Not a great or even a very good show, but they figured out how to have some fun without many resources available and that is a nice trick to pull off.

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Impact Wrestling – April 7, 2022: We Can Do That Next Week

Impact Wrestling

Date: April 7, 2022

Location: Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Host: Josh Matthews

It's a special week this time around as rather than building towards Rebellion with a regular show, we're going to look at some of the Multiverse Of Matches card. The show was held over Wrestlemania Weekend but a lot of it had little to do with the upcoming pay per view. It should be fun for a one off though so let's get to it.

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

Note that I'll be posting the full versions of the matches rather than the possibly clipped versions from the broadcast.

The opening video gives us a Multiverse Of Matches highlight reel.

X-Division Title: Jordynne Grace vs. Chris Bey vs. Blake

Christian vs. Vincent vs. Rich Swann vs. Trey Miguel

Miguel is defending in Ultimate X and Swann busts out a Scott Hall pose for a great moment. It's a group attempt to crawl across the ropes to start but that is all broken up. The audio gets a lot louder as Miguel is left alone, only to be pulled down by Swann and Bey. That means a three way exchange of strikes to the face with bey getting the better of things.

Grace is back in with a MuscleBuster to Bey but Christian clears the ring out again. Miguel takes Christian down though and goes up, only to get pulled down by Vincent. That earns Vincent a cutter from Swann, who is pulled down by Bey rather quickly. Bey plants Swann with the Art of Finesse so Christian goes up, only to drop does onto Bey with a Canadian Destroyer. Instead of climbing though, Christian hits a big flip dive onto the pile. It's Grace going across the cables and using her legs, only to get knocked down by Miguel. That's enough for Miguel to grab the title and retain at 7:25.

Rating: B-. This was one of those things where I've seen a bunch of Ultimate X matches over the years and a lot of them run together. The climbing was the focus here again as it tends to be, though it was a lot of two people do their thing and then some others take their place. Fun match, but if you've seen a few of these, you've seen them all.

Trey Miguel is ready for his triple threat title defense at Rebellion. If you can't see the fire in his eyes right now, you aren't looking close enough.

We look at Chelsea Green turning on Mickie James, who got taken out by Matt Cardona. A mixed tag match was set.

Mickie James is ready to take Green out and Nick Aldis is glad to be back for one night only. He just wishes it was under nicer circumstances than him stretching Cardona.

Matt Cardona/Chelsea Green vs. Nick Aldis/Mickie James

Green turned on James and Cardona took her out, so James brought in Aldis for a battle of married teams. The girls get in a brawl to start but we settle down to Aldis pounding on Cardona on the mat and in the corner. Mickie comes in but gets taken down by Cardona's clothesline to put her in trouble. It's off to Green to choke in the corner and forearm away, setting up the chinlock to keep James down.

The Reboot misses for Cardona though and Mickie grabs a flapjack, allowing the hot tag off to Aldis. The clothesline comeback is on, setting up a Tombstone. There's a top rope elbow but Green makes the save as everything breaks down. Cardona has to save Green from the King's Lynn Cloverleaf but she gets sent outside anyway. Back in and stereo King's Lynn Cloverleafs make Cardona and Green tap at the same time at 8:00.

Rating: C. I remember this being a bit longer in person but it still worked out well enough. There is a simple story here with the two married couples going at it over one of them being attacked a few weeks ago. Aldis continues to look like a star, though he might be a bit dull, and James has been a legend for years. Green has come a long way and Cardona...my goodness he has had a career renaissance in the last year or so and it has been a lot of fun to watch.

Eddie Edwards is here representing Pro Wrestling Noah because they didn't turn their backs on him. He is in his old school green and is ready to prove himself to Tomohiro Ishii.

Eddie Edwards vs. Tomohiro Ishii

Feeling out process to start with Edwards backing him up against the ropes to no avail. An exchange of shoulders (eventually) goes to Ishii but he is sent outside for the suicide dive. Ishii gets sent into the barricade but he is fine enough to hit a powerslam to drive Edwards into the floor. A DDT onto the apron rocks Ishii for two and Eddie is

starting to get cocky.

That's not a good idea against Ishii, who hits a suplex and unloads in the corner to take over. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets Eddie out of trouble for two and he kicks Ishii in the head in the corner. The Backpack Stunner is broken up so they trade snap German suplexes and clotheslines for a double knockdown.

Back up and Edwards starts striking away in the corner, earning a glare from Ishii and a YOU CENSORED UP chant from the crowd. Ishii hammers away but the sliding lariat is blocked and Edwards knees away. The Boston Knee Party is blocked and Ishii hits a running knee of his own. Edwards blocks the brainbuster and tries the Die Hard Driver but Ishii slips out. The big clothesline sets up the brainbuster to give Ishii the pin at 14:58.

Rating: B-. This felt like the match where they beat each other up until one of them just couldn't get up again. That is a formula that will always work well enough, though it didn't quite hit the highest point here. Ishii isn't what he used to be but he is still good enough to get by on a combination of reputation and skill. If nothing else, it is nice to see a first time match that felt special, which is the point of this show.

Jonah/Josh Alexander vs. PCO/Moose

PCO jumps Alexander to start and knocks him into the corner. Alexander gets in a kick to the face though and it's Jonah coming in, albeit after glaring at Alexander a bit (with commentary pointing out their previous issues). It's off to Moose for the showdown with Jonah, but about ten shoulders won't put Jonah down. One big shoulder does put Moose down, though Alexander tags himself back in to chase Moose around the ring.

PCO cuts Alexander off and it's a double whip to send Alexander into the barricade. Back in and PCO drops his middle

rope leg and Moose starts stomping on Alexander's wrist. Alexander is able to grab a suplex on PC0 but he's back up to knock Jonah off the apron before the tag. The second attempt works just fine though and it's Jonah coming in to clean house.

That doesn't last long as the big backplash misses and Alexander is already back in. Everything breaks down and PC0 hits his big flip dive to the floor, setting up the Deanimator on Alexander. Back in and Jonah hits a superkick on PC0, leaving Alexander to blast Moose with a clothesline. We get the B00/YAY slugout with Moose and Alexander until Moose bails from the threat of the C4 Spike. The Spike hits PC0 instead for the pin at 12:48.

Rating: C+. Sometimes you need four big, strong guys to beat on each other for a little while. That is what we got here and it was entertaining while it lasted. That's about all you can ask for here and they even built up Moose vs. Alexander at Rebellion. Throw in some fun interactions and this was about as good of a use of their time as they could have had.

We recap Jay White vs. Chris Sabin. They have met each other time after time and now it is Sabin's chance to prove himself.

Chris Sabin vs. Jay White

White is a bit popular around here. A chop against the ropes wakes Sabin up to start and another hurts White's own hand. Sabin grabs him by the arm and takes him down to the mat before grabbing an armdrag into a chop of his own. White is sent outside for the suicide dive and then gets dropped face first onto the apron. Back in and White catches him on top, setting up another chop out to the floor.

A pair of belly to back drops onto the apron have Sabin in more trouble and the half crab goes on back inside. With that broken up, White hits a backbreaker into a waistlock to stay on the back/ribs. Sabin fights up and hits a shot to the ribs

of his own before another good one puts White down. Some elbows to the back of the head set up a missile dropkick to give Sabin two as his chest is a scary shade of purple.

White is back up with a snap DDT for two and a Saito suplex drops Sabin again. A swinging suplex gets two more and it's White's turn to be frustrated. The swinging Rock Bottom plants Sabin for another near fall and White is annoyed at the referee (the same one who allegedly messed up in the tag match last week).

Sabin counters the Blade Runner into a ram into the corner but White goes back to the damaged chest. That just fires Sabin up for some, ahem, machine gun style chops to put White down for a change. There's the hard clothesline but the Cradle Shock is blocked. White tries the Blade Runner again, only to get rolled up to give Sabin the upset pin at 16:01.

Rating: B. I didn't see that coming and I was actually surprised by the pinfall. White losing outside of anything but a big match is weird and Sabin winning a major singles match almost feels even weirder. It was a heck of a match though with both guys looking as smooth as they ever did. That's the good thing about seeing people like these two getting in the ring and they made it work very well. Match of the night so far.

Post match Steve Maclin comes in to go after Sabin but White pulls him off. Maclin goes after Sabin again but gets hit low, leaving Sabin to celebrate.

Sabin talks about beating White in an upset because no one expected him to win. Now White will never forget it.

Good Brothers vs. Briscoes

This is a few hours after the Briscoes had their instant classic against FTR. We get the Big Match Intros and you really can feel the energy when the Briscoes are in the ring.

They just make things feel big and the charisma is off the charts. Mark and Anderson go to the mat to start but everything breaks down in a hurry.

Back in and Karl rakes Jay's eyes to take over and we settle down with Jay being sent into the corner. Gallows stomps away and Anderson goes back to the eyes like a villain (I think?) should. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Jay is taken into the corner for some right hands from Anderson. That doesn't last long either and the hot tag brings in Mark to clean house.

The Iconoclasm gets two on Anderson and Redneck Boogie (commentary didn't seem to know the name) connects for the same. Everything breaks down and the reverse 3D gets two on Jay. Mark breaks up the Magic Killer and everyone is down again. It's Mark getting up first and heading to the top but Chris Bey pops up to distract the referee. Cue Jay White to shove Mark off the top, setting up the Magic Killer for the pin at 9:45.

Rating: C+. They went fast here and a lot of that is probably due to the Briscoes being a bit gassed after their earlier match. What mattered here was giving the Bullet Club a win and it isn't like the Briscoes lose much after a previous match and interference. They had a good match here though and the energy was high to end the night.

Deonna Purrazzo doesn't care that Mercedes Martinez won the Interim Ring Of Honor Women's Title earlier tonight (at a different show) and she doesn't care who answers her Champ Champ Challenge tonight.

Here's Deonna Purrazzo for the Champ Champ Challenger.

AAA Reina de Reinas Title: Faby Apache vs. Deonna Purrazzo

Purrazzo is defending and defeated Apache to win the title in the first place. I had been hoping for Mercedes Martinez or

Taya Valkyrie but this was certainly a surprise. Feeling out process with Apache taking her down by the leg and some legsweeps give them two each. A slugout goes to Purrazzo but Apache takes her down into the corner to stomp away. Purrazzo is back with some arm cranking but can't get the cross armbreaker. Apache grabs a suplex into a legdrop as the fans aren't sure what to make of her.

La majistral gives Apache two as Rehwoldt continues to sing Purrazzo's praises. Something like a reverse Figure Four has Purrazzo in trouble until she gets over to the rope. Purrazzo is back up with a standing moonsault for two but Apache grabs the Fairy Tale Ending for her own two. The Fujiwara armbar is broken up and they kick each other in the face for a double knockdown. Back up and Purrazzo hits a German suplex but can't get the Queen's Gambit. With that not working, Purrazzo pulls her into the armbar for the tap to retain at 8:56.

Rating: C. The problem here is that the fans didn't know Apache and they didn't react to the match as a result. While Apache is someone who was a threat to the title, you need something to care about and that isn't the case with someone popping into the promotion for the first time. The match wasn't bad, but it had almost no heat and that dragged things down.

Post match Purrazzo grabs the mic and says it doesn't matter who what Mercedes Martinez won earlier tonight because she is the Champ Champ...and here is Taya Valkyrie to interrupt. The fans welcome her back and Valkyrie says Purrazzo should be worried about that Reina de Reinas Title. Valkyrie will see her at Rebellion.

Purrazzo says Valkyrie can bring it.

Valkyrie is ready to win the Reina de Reinas Title and shut Purrazzo up.

Here's what's coming next week.

Alex Shelley vs. Mike Bailey

Bailey was all over Wrestlemania Weekend and this is one of a handful of matches I saw from him. The fans aren't sure who to cheer for here but both seem rather popular. They take about a minute to lock up with Shelley working on a wristlock. Bailey breaks that up fast and sends Shelley into the corner to give us a standoff. A whip into the ropes doesn't get Shelley anywhere as Bailey is back with his bouncing kicks to the arms into the enziguri.

Shelley is sent outside where he seems to injure and then fix his own shoulder. A jawbreaker works a bit better for Shelley and they head outside again with Shelley chopping away against the barricade. We pause for a Ric Flair strut and a top rope knee is driven into the chest back inside. Shelley hits a leg trap DDT for two and we hit the crossarm choke. Bailey fights up again and kicks him down, setting up the running corkscrew shooting star press for two.

Shelley pulls him down into the Motor City Stretch, sending Bailey over to the rope. They head to the apron (oh dear) where Bailey trips him down but misses his moonsault knees (freaking ow man). That lets Shelley hit a slingshot DDT, which mostly drives Bailey's shoulder into the apron to knock him silly. A brainbuster on the floor drops Bailey again but he dives back in and sends Shelley outside.

That means a big springboard moonsault because selling isn't a thing on this show. Back in and Shelley gets annoyed so the real fight is on. Bailey kicks him down and hits the Ultimate Weapon (standing moonsault double knees) for two. A quick Motor City Stretch attempt is countered into a rollup for two before Bailey bounces him off the rope for another rollup and the pin at 15:03.

Rating: B-. You knew you were going to get this kind of a match on the show and it worked well here, though Bailey

taking those big moves and popping up to win a few moments later was more than I could reasonably take. That was a problem for him all weekend long and while it is the kind of thing that you have to expect, it still isn't easy to see over and over.

Overall Rating: B. This was more or less the Multiverse Of Matches show (minus the Knockouts Tag Team Title match) with Josh's intros and some short promos added. It's a pretty entertaining show and a nice way to take a breather after Wrestlemania Weekend. Rebellion can have its final push next week and they did advance enough on this show too. All in all, not a must see show, but worth a look if you don't have time for the full Multiverse show.

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Daily News Update – April 17, 2022

Happy Resurrection Day.

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Hall Of Famer Returning To WWE TV Next Week.

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That's A Record: Title Change Takes Place At AEW Battle Of The Belts.

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Some More NXT Wrestlers Are Heading To Another Show.

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Possible Injury At AEW Battle Of The Belts II.

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Ring Of Honor TV – April 13, 2022: The Talent And The Influence

Ring Of Honor

Date: April 13, 2022

We're still in the vault years and that has been a lot of fun so far. There is so much great material throughout Ring Of Honor's history and it is a blast to pull out some random matches and see what else is in there. I have no idea what to expect here and that is always a nice feeling. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

From the 2nd Anniversary Show, February 14, 2004.

Pure Wrestling Title: CM Punk vs. AJ Styles

For the inaugural title. Feeling out process to start with

Punk being sent into the ropes, which counts for the first (of three rope breaks). Styles gets backed up as well and grabs the rope for a reversal, which means a break of his own (even if it didn't seem intentional). They run the ropes until AJ slips to the floor to go after Traci Brooks (Punk's manager).

The distraction lets Punk take him down with a dive but Styles sends him into the barricade. They fight into the crowd and you can't see a thing. It's Punk in control as they come back to the ring for a Boston crab. Styles uses his second break and we take a break of our own. Back with Styles hitting a discus lariat to send Punk outside for a breather.

Back in and Punk hammers away in the corner before hitting a quick piledriver. Something like a half crab Liontamer sends Styles to the ropes, but apparently he used his last break so he has to climb the ropes instead. There's the Styles Clash for two but Punk is back with a hammerlock DDT for the same. The Pepsi Plunge is broken up and Styles hits a Pele, setting up the Styles Clash for the pin and the title at 16:37.

Rating: B. Oh come on, it's Punk vs. Styles in a big time match getting time. Of course this was good, with Punk kicking out of the Styles Clash being quite the surprise. It's almost weird to see Styles still coming up like this but you can see all of the talent there. The same is true of Punk, who still feels like a bigger deal at this point. Good match, which shouldn't be the slightest surprise.

From Ring Of Homicide, May 13, 2006.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Bryan Danielson vs. Delirious

Danielson is defending but gets jumped before the bell to start fast. Delirious knocks him to the floor and Danielson needs to get the belt off before getting back in. After more than a few moments, and some OVERRATED chants from the fans, Danielson gets back in and goes after the mask but can't get the Cattle Mutilation.

Something is censored as Danielson drops a knee and starts working on the arm. Now Cattle Mutilation can go on and we take a break. Back with Danielson coming off the top but diving into a cutter for two. Some strikes to the face get two more before Delirious rolls over into a cobra stretch. Danielson escapes (of course) and hits a middle rope elbow to the face to take over again.

A roaring elbow sets up a dragon suplex for two and the chickenwing has Delirious in a lot of trouble. The foot reaches the rope for the break and Danielson is looking a little frustrated. Delirious sends him into the corner and Shadows Over Hell gets two. The cobra stretch goes on again and this time Danielson needs the rope for a save. Cattle Mutilation sends Delirious to the rope as well but Danielson goes with the small package to retain the title at 24:50.

Rating: B-. They told a story here of Danielson not being intimidated by Delirious and getting in some trouble as a result. Delirious kept hanging on and escaping the Cattle Mutilation so Danielson had to catch him with something quick instead. Good match, as Danielson was on a roll during this title reign and could do nothing wrong.

From the 8th Anniversary Show, February 13, 2010.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Austin Aries vs. Tyler Black

Black, better known as Seth Rollins, is challenging. Before the match, Aries says he wrestled the kind of match he wanted to see last time and the fans didn't like it. Now he is going to wrestle the match the fans want, but they still won't like it. Cue Jim Cornette to say if there is a countout or a DQ, the decision goes to the judges, so one of them needs to beat the other. Aries gets sent outside to start and has to glare at Roderick Strong (a judge, along with Cornette and Kenny King for quite the group).

Back in and Black chops away, setting up a clothesline for an

early two. Aries starts in on the arm but misses an elbow so Black can punch him down in the corner. Some rollups give Black two each until Aries kicks him into the corner to take over. Some choking on the apron sets up a neckbreaker for two on Black, followed by a missile dropkick for the same. We take a break and come back with Black hitting a superplex and rolling into an F5 for two of his own to leave them both down.

Black knocks him off the apron and over the barricade, setting up the huge dive for the crash. The judges are a bit terrified but Aries is fine enough to hit a Death Valley Driver onto the apron. The Rubik's Cube gives Black two on the way back in and they slug it out. Aries' brainbuster gets two more but the 450 hits knees, allowing Black to roll him up for two.

Another strike off lets Black grab God's Last Gift for two but King gets on the apron for no logical reason. Strong takes him down but knocks Black off the top by mistake, earning himself a superkick. Cornette gets up as well and gets superkicked down too, leaving Black to hit a buckle bomb. The low superkick sets up the Phoenix splash to give Black the pin and the title at 22:40 (with commentary sounding bored).

Rating: B+. Yeah this great and it is easy to see why WWE wanted Black in the fold sooner rather than later. They were going back and forth and the judges were a nice distraction as Black won on his own rather than needing something screwy. Black was clearly the new flavor at this point and giving him the title was the right way to go, with Ring of Honor getting the point (eventually).

Overall Rating: B+. Another heck of a show and exactly what I was hoping for here, as they opened the vault and showed what kind of things they had. You got three pretty random matches here featuring top current stars, which shows you just how much talent and influence Ring Of Honor has had over the years. I had a good time with this and I'm starting to look forward to this show again, even if this isn't going to last.

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Multiverse Of Matches: The Fun One

Multiverse Of Matches

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

This was a show that got my attention as it has a pretty nice card with a lot of things going on. The idea is that there are multiple companies coming together with some representatives for some matches we might not have seen before. That should be enough, even if this is just a side trip on the way to Rebellion. Let's get to it.

I was in attendance for this show, sitting opposite the entrance in the fifth row center.

The opening video runs down the card.

X-Division Title: Jordynne Grace vs. Chris Bey vs. Blake Christian vs. Vincent vs. Rich Swann vs. Trey Miguel

Miguel is defending in Ultimate X and Swann busts out a Scott Hall pose for a great moment. It's a group attempt to crawl across the ropes to start but that is all broken up. The audio gets a lot louder as Miguel is left alone, only to be pulled down by Swann and Bey. That means a three way exchange of strikes to the face with bey getting the better of things.

Grace is back in with a MuscleBuster to Bey but Christian clears the ring out again. Miguel takes Christian down though and goes up, only to get pulled down by Vincent. That earns Vincent a cutter from Swann, who is pulled down by Bey rather quickly. Bey plants Swann with the Art of Finesse so Christian goes up, only to drop does onto Bey with a Canadian Destroyer. Instead of climbing though, Christian hits a big flip dive onto the pile. It's Grace going across the cables and using her legs, only to get knocked down by Miguel. That's enough for Miguel to grab the title and retain at 7:25.

Rating: B-. This was one of those things where I've seen a bunch of Ultimate X matches over the years and a lot of them run together. The climbing was the focus here again as it tends to be, though it was a lot of two people do their thing and then some others take their place. Fun match, but if you've seen a few of these, you've seen them all.

Here's what's coming on the rest of the card as the structure is taken apart.

Earlier today, the Good Brothers promised to take the Briscoes out to even their career series.

Matt Cardona/Chelsea Green vs. Nick Aldis/Mickie James

Green turned on James and Cardona took her out, so James brought in Aldis for a battle of married teams. The girls get in a brawl to start but we settle down to Aldis pounding on

Cardona on the mat and in the corner. Mickie comes in but gets taken down by Cardona's clothesline to put her in trouble. It's off to Green to choke in the corner and forearm away, setting up the chinlock to keep James down.

The Reboot misses for Cardona though and Mickie grabs a flapjack, allowing the hot tag off to Aldis. The clothesline comeback is on, setting up a Tombstone. There's a top rope elbow but Green makes the save as everything breaks down. Cardona has to save Green from the King's Lynn Cloverleaf but she gets sent outside anyway. Back in and stereo King's Lynn Cloverleafs make Cardona and Green tap at the same time at 8:00.

Rating: C. I remember this being a bit longer in person but it still worked out well enough. There is a simple story here with the two married couples going at it over one of them being attacked a few weeks ago. Aldis continues to look like a star, though he might be a bit dull, and James has been a legend for years. Green has come a long way and Cardona...my goodness he has had a career renaissance in the last year or so and it has been a lot of fun to watch.

Aldis motions that he wants the NWA World Title back. Or maybe the Impact Digital Media Title.

Deonna Purrazzo doesn't care that Mercedes Martinez won the Interim Ring Of Honor Women's Title earlier tonight (at a different show) and she doesn't care who answers her Champ Champ Challenge tonight.

Alex Shelley vs. Mike Bailey

Bailey was all over Wrestlemania Weekend and this is one of a handful of matches I saw from him. The fans aren't sure who to cheer for here but both seem rather popular. They take about a minute to lock up with Shelley working on a wristlock. Bailey breaks that up fast and sends Shelley into the corner to give us a standoff. A whip into the ropes doesn't get Shelley

anywhere as Bailey is back with his bouncing kicks to the arms into the enziguri.

Shelley is sent outside where he seems to injure and then fix his own shoulder. A jawbreaker works a bit better for Shelley and they head outside again with Shelley chopping away against the barricade. We pause for a Ric Flair strut and a top rope knee is driven into the chest back inside. Shelley hits a leg trap DDT for two and we hit the crossarm choke. Bailey fights up again and kicks him down, setting up the running corkscrew shooting star press for two.

Shelley pulls him down into the Motor City Stretch, sending Bailey over to the rope. They head to the apron (oh dear) where Bailey trips him down but misses his moonsault knees (freaking ow man). That lets Shelley hit a slingshot DDT, which mostly drives Bailey's shoulder into the apron to knock him silly. A brainbuster on the floor drops Bailey again but he dives back in and sends Shelley outside.

That means a big springboard moonsault because selling isn't a thing on this show. Back in and Shelley gets annoyed so the real fight is on. Bailey kicks him down and hits the Ultimate Weapon (standing moonsault double knees) for two. A quick Motor City Stretch attempt is countered into a rollup for two before Bailey bounces him off the rope for another rollup and the pin at 15:03.

Rating: B-. You knew you were going to get this kind of a match on the show and it worked well here, though Bailey taking those big moves and popping up to win a few moments later was more than I could reasonably take. That was a problem for him all weekend long and while it is the kind of thing that you have to expect, it still isn't easy to see over and over.

The Influence isn't worried about their Tag Team Title defense. Madison Rayne is reminded of one of her favorite

quotes: "Everyone else sucks and we're the Knockouts Tag Team Champions." Who said that you ask? Tenille Dashwood of course. All three of the teams are going to hate each other or not get along so they should be fine.

Knockouts Tag Team Titles: Decay vs. Lady Frost/Gisele Shaw vs. Tasha Steelz/Savannah Evans vs. Influence

Influence is defending and there are actually no seconds here. Shaw and Frost are replacing the IInspiration, who are missing for no apparent reason. Rosemary and Steelz start things off but Steelz hands it off to Evans before anything happens. A dropkick to the leg takes Evans down so Rosemary can bite her head, only to get knocked into the corner. Evans hiptosses Steelz into her for two but Shaw tags herself in.

Something like Natural Selection gets two on Steelz and it's off to Frost for Cryme Tyme's old G9 of all things. Instead of covering, they let Steelz tag in Havok for the wrecking on Frost. Rosemary adds the spear before handing it off to Dashwood for the stomping. A northern lights suplex gives Rayne two and Steelz has to make the save after a neckbreaker.

Frost kicks her way to freedom so it's off to Havok vs. Rayne, with no one interested in Rayne's offer of a tag. Everything breaks down as we hit the parade of secondary finishers, leaving everyone down. Evans/Steelz and Decay fight to the floor, leaving Frost and Shaw to kick the champs down together. Frost gets knocked off the top though and a double Stroke is enough to retain the titles at 9:03.

Rating: C. What else were you expecting from a match like this? There are eight women fighting to get ring time and no one is going to get the chance to shine. The titles still don't mean much and it is hard to imagine anyone but the IInspiration taking the Influence down. At least they weren't out there long and the match wasn't awful, but it isn't like these things ever work that well.

Eddie Edwards is here representing Pro Wrestling Noah because they didn't turn their backs on him. He is in his old school green and is ready to prove himself to Tomohiro Ishii.

Eddie Edwards vs. Tomohiro Ishii

Feeling out process to start with Edwards backing him up against the ropes to no avail. An exchange of shoulders (eventually) goes to Ishii but he is sent outside for the suicide dive. Ishii gets sent into the barricade but he is fine enough to hit a powerslam to drive Edwards into the floor. A DDT onto the apron rocks Ishii for two and Eddie is starting to get cocky.

That's not a good idea against Ishii, who hits a suplex and unloads in the corner to take over. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets Eddie out of trouble for two and he kicks Ishii in the head in the corner. The Backpack Stunner is broken up so they trade snap German suplexes and clotheslines for a double knockdown.

Back up and Edwards starts striking away in the corner, earning a glare from Ishii and a YOU CENSORED UP chant from the crowd. Ishii hammers away but the sliding lariat is blocked and Edwards knees away. The Boston Knee Party is blocked and Ishii hits a running knee of his own. Edwards blocks the brainbuster and tries the Die Hard Driver but Ishii slips out. The big clothesline sets up the brainbuster to give Ishii the pin at 14:58.

Rating: B-. This felt like the match where they beat each other up until one of them just couldn't get up again. That is a formula that will always work well enough, though it didn't quite hit the highest point here. Ishii isn't what he used to be but he is still good enough to get by on a combination of reputation and skill. If nothing else, it is nice to see a first time match that felt special, which is the point of this show.

We recap PC0/Moose vs. Josh Alexander/Jonah. This is double

fallout from Sacrifice where Alexander returned to go after Moose and Jonah injured PC0. There is nothing wrong with combining two feuds and this should be a hard hitting fight.

Jonah/Josh Alexander vs. PC0/Moose

PC0 jumps Alexander to start and knocks him into the corner. Alexander gets in a kick to the face though and it's Jonah coming in, albeit after glaring at Alexander a bit (with commentary pointing out their previous issues). It's off to Moose for the showdown with Jonah, but about ten shoulders won't put Jonah down. One big shoulder does put Moose down, though Alexander tags himself back in to chase Moose around the ring.

PC0 cuts Alexander off and it's a double whip to send Alexander into the barricade. Back in and PC0 drops his middle rope leg and Moose starts stomping on Alexander's wrist. Alexander is able to grab a suplex on PC0 but he's back up to knock Jonah off the apron before the tag. The second attempt works just fine though and it's Jonah coming in to clean house.

That doesn't last long as the big backplash misses and Alexander is already back in. Everything breaks down and PC0 hits his big flip dive to the floor, setting up the Deanimator on Alexander. Back in and Jonah hits a superkick on PC0, leaving Alexander to blast Moose with a clothesline. We get the B00/YAY slugout with Moose and Alexander until Moose bails from the threat of the C4 Spike. The Spike hits PC0 instead for the pin at 12:48.

Rating: C+. Sometimes you need four big, strong guys to beat on each other for a little while. That is what we got here and it was entertaining while it lasted. That's about all you can ask for here and they even built up Moose vs. Alexander at Rebellion. Throw in some fun interactions and this was about as good of a use of their time as they could have had.

Mickie James and Gail Kim are running something called Dresselmania II which seems to be some kind of charity deal. Cool.

Here's Deonna Purrazzo for the Champ Champ Challenger.

AAA Reina de Reinas Title: Faby Apache vs. Deonna Purrazzo

Purrazzo is defending and defeated Apache to win the title in the first place. I had been hoping for Mercedes Martinez or Taya Valkyrie but this was certainly a surprise. Feeling out process with Apache taking her down by the leg and some legsweeps give them two each. A slugout goes to Purrazzo but Apache takes her down into the corner to stomp away. Purrazzo is back with some arm cranking but can't get the cross armbreaker. Apache grabs a suplex into a legdrop as the fans aren't sure what to make of her.

La majistral gives Apache two as Rehwoldt continues to sing Purrazzo's praises. Something like a reverse Figure Four has Purrazzo in trouble until she gets over to the rope. Purrazzo is back up with a standing moonsault for two but Apache grabs the Fairy Tale Ending for her own two. The Fujiwara armbar is broken up and they kick each other in the face for a double knockdown. Back up and Purrazzo hits a German suplex but can't get the Queen's Gambit. With that not working, Purrazzo pulls her into the armbar for the tap to retain at 8:56.

Rating: C. The problem here is that the fans didn't know Apache and they didn't react to the match as a result. While Apache is someone who was a threat to the title, you need something to care about and that isn't the case with someone popping into the promotion for the first time. The match wasn't bad, but it had almost no heat and that dragged things down.

Post match Purrazzo grabs the mic and says it doesn't matter who Mercedes Martinez won earlier tonight because she is the Champ Champ....and here is Taya Valkyrie to interrupt. The

fans welcome her back and Valkyrie says Purrazzo should be worried about that Reina de Reinas Title. Valkyrie will see her at Rebellion.

We recap Jay White vs. Chris Sabin. They have met each other time after time and now it is Sabin's chance to prove himself.

Chris Sabin vs. Jay White

White is a bit popular around here. A chop against the ropes wakes Sabin up to start and another hurts White's own hand. Sabin grabs him by the arm and takes him down to the mat before grabbing an armdrag into a chop of his own. White is sent outside for the suicide dive and then gets dropped face first onto the apron. Back in and White catches him on top, setting up another chop out to the floor.

A pair of belly to back drops onto the apron have Sabin in more trouble and the half crab goes on back inside. With that broken up, White hits a backbreaker into a waistlock to stay on the back/ribs. Sabin fights up and hits a shot to the ribs of his own before another good one puts White down. Some elbows to the back of the head set up a missile dropkick to give Sabin two as his chest is a scary shade of purple.

White is back up with a snap DDT for two and a Saito suplex drops Sabin again. A swinging suplex gets two more and it's White's turn to be frustrated. The swinging Rock Bottom plants Sabin for another near fall and White is annoyed at the referee (the same one who allegedly messed up in the tag match last week).

Sabin counters the Blade Runner into a ram into the corner but White goes back to the damaged chest. That just fires Sabin up for some, ahem, machine gun style chops to put White down for a change. There's the hard clothesline but the Cradle Shock is blocked. White tries the Blade Runner again, only to get rolled up to give Sabin the upset pin at 16:01.

Rating: B. I didn't see that coming and I was actually surprised by the pinfall. White losing outside of anything but a big match is weird and Sabin winning a major singles match almost feels even weirder. It was a heck of a match though with both guys looking as smooth as they ever did. That's the good thing about seeing people like these two getting in the ring and they made it work very well. Match of the night so far.

Post match Steve Maclin comes in to go after Sabin but White pulls him off. Maclin goes after Sabin again but gets hit low, leaving Sabin to celebrate.

Good Brothers vs. Briscoes

This is a few hours after the Briscoes had their instant classic against FTR. We get the Big Match Intros and you really can feel the energy when the Briscoes are in the ring. They just make things feel big and the charisma is off the charts. Mark and Anderson go to the mat to start but everything breaks down in a hurry.

Back in and Karl rakes Jay's eyes to take over and we settle down with Jay being sent into the corner. Gallows stomps away and Anderson goes back to the eyes like a villain (I think?) should. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Jay is taken into the corner for some right hands from Anderson. That doesn't last long either and the hot tag brings in Mark to clean house.

The Iconoclasm gets two on Anderson and Redneck Boogie (commentary didn't seem to know the name) connects for the same. Everything breaks down and the reverse 3D gets two on Jay. Mark breaks up the Magic Killer and everyone is down again. It's Mark getting up first and heading to the top but Chris Bey pops up to distract the referee. Cue Jay White to shove Mark off the top, setting up the Magic Killer for the pin at 9:45.

Rating: C+. They went fast here and a lot of that is probably due to the Briscoes being a bit gassed after their earlier match. What mattered here was giving the Bullet Club a win and it isn't like the Briscoes lose much after a previous match and interference. They had a good match here though and the energy was high to end the night.

The Bullet Club poses on the stage to end the show.

After the show, the Briscoes called that a bunch of B0LOGNA (Mark's word) and promised to be back in Impact.

Overall Rating: B-. This might not have been an instant classic, but it was a fun night and one of the shows I had been looking forward to leading up to the weekend. Impact continues to be good when they are able to focus on the wrestling itself and this time they were able to mix things up a bit and have a fun show. Rebellion is the show that mattered, but this was the lighter show and they made that work rather well.

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AEW Battle Of The Belts II: I Saw No Belts Fighting

Battle Of The Belts II

Date: April 16, 2022

Location: Curtis Culwell Center, Garland, Texas

Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Ricky Starks

It's time for another special as AEW is back with a focus on the titles. That could make for a big night, as we are fresh off a World Title match this week on Rampage. This show is another hour long deal, which tends to mean a focus on in ring action. AEW tends to thrive there so let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

TNT Title: Scorpio Sky vs. Sammy Guevara

Sky, with the rest of the Men of the Year is defending while Guevara has Tay Conti with him. Guevara gets knocked back to start and Sky hammers away before things reset a bit. They fight over a suplex attempt before Guevara clotheslines him down. A backflip over Sky sets up a dropkick to the floor, with the fans not being so pleased with Guevara. Sky slams him on the floor and a mostly missed TKO over the top rope sends them both back outside. We take a break and come back with Sky hitting a pair of backbreakers.

The fans want a third so Sky gives them one, and even bends Guevara's back over the knee. Guevara fights up and hits a standing Spanish Fly for a breather before going up for the 630. Ethan Page breaks that up so Conti gets in an argument with Page, allowing Guevara to hit a top rope shooting star onto Page and Sky. Back in and the springboard cutter gets two

on Sky, setting up a rollup for the same, even with Conti adding an assist. Cue Paige VanZant to brawl with Conti, which is enough for Guevara to hit Sky low. The GTH gives Guevara the pin and the title at 12:42.

Rating: B-. That's the first major step towards Guevara and Conti being full on heels and that is a good idea. They are one of the easiest to dislike pairs in AEW and turning them is going to be a heck of a moment. That being said, Sky's title reign feels pretty lame and I could have gone for more of the Men of the Year bragging about the title. Pretty good match to start the show and it's nice to see a title change, though this is about the future more than anything else.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Dalton Castle vs. Jonathan Gresham

Castle, with the Boys, is challenging. They go technical to start with Castle having to grab the rope to escape an armbar. More grappling goes to Gresham but Castle Peacocks up. A springboard hurricanrana takes him back down though and Gresham wants him to bring it. There's a dropkick to drop Castle and we take a break.

Back with Gresham missing a dive to the floor before heading back inside where they miss a bunch of chops in the corner. Castle misses the Bang A Rang and they trade rollups for some near falls each. With that not working for Gresham, he pulls Castle into an Octopus on the mat for the tap to retain at 10:30.

Rating: C+. More or less just a showcase match for Gresham, but Castle's flamboyance and facials alone are going to get him over if he is around here for that long. It's one of the most unique looking presentations in wrestling and he can do enough in the ring to back it up. Gresham feels like a star though and his size issues are completely forgiven due to how sharp he is in the ring.

Respect is shown post match....but here are Jay Lethal, Sonjay

Dutt and Satnam Singh to interrupt. Singh double chokeslams the Boys and there's a Lethal Injection to Gresham. Singh goes after Gresham so here is Lee Moriarty for a failed save attempt. The injured Matt Sydal gets in the ring and is beaten down as well but Samoa Joe makes the real save with a lead pipe. This still feels very, very WWE.

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

Quick video on Nyla Rose challenging Thunder Rosa for the Women's Title.

Women's Title: Nyla Rose vs. Thunder Rosa

Rosa is defending and there is no Vickie Guerrero. They fight on the floor to start with Rose driving her up against the barricade. A bulldog on the floor puts Rose down for a change and there's a ram into the barricade to keep her in trouble. Back in and a missile dropkick gives Rosa two, setting up the sliding lariat for two.

Rose fights up but gets low bridged to the floor. Rosa's charge is countered into an apron bomb though and we take a break. Back with Rosa firing off some running clotheslines to put Rose into the corner. The running corner clothesline sets up a running dropkick but Rose pulls a high crossbody out of the air. A kick to the face rocks Rosa but she's back with a Code Red for two.

Rose hits a chokeslam (which sends us to a different camera shot) and goes up for...something mistimed, as it seemed that Rosa was supposed to get a boot up but didn't, leaving Rose to try an ax handle to a downed Rosa instead. Rose's middle rope legdrop only hits apron though and Rosa rolls her up for two. A World's Strongest Slam gives Rose the same but Rosa is back with a hurricanrana to retain the title at 14:09.

Rating: C+. Rose is starting to feel like AEW's version of Kane or Big Show: you can build her up as the big monster but

other than her first title reign, she doesn't win anything of note. There is still something to her because of her size and ability to move, but it's hard to really buy that she is anything more than the next monster for the champion to slay. Rosa isn't as interesting as champion as she was when she was chasing the title, but this worked for a special main event.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a better and more interesting show than the first edition, though it is mostly skippable stuff. I like Guevara getting the title back as he and Conti as heels have money written on them, though the other two matches are more "if you have time" situations. All that being said, it's an hour long show with some good action so it is hardly some disaster or complete waste of time.

Results

Sammy Guevara b. Scorpio Sky – GTH

Jonathan Gresham b. Dalton Castle – Octopus

Thunder Rosa b. Nyla Rose – Hurricanrana

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AEW Signs Top Independent Star, Debuting This Weekend.

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WWE Star Begins A New Career This Week On SmackDown.

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Two To One: Huge Title Match Officially Set For WrestleMania Backlash.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: John Cena Returning To WWE TV.

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Smackdown – April 15, 2022: Back Next Week?

Smackdown

Date: April 15, 2022

Location: DCU Center, Worcester, Massachusetts

Commentators: Pat McAfee, Michael Cole

We're back to the blue guys and now the build seems to be on for Wrestlemania Backlash. Last week saw Shinsuke Nakamura

come after Roman Reigns to suggest that he is the next challenger while Charlotte vs. Ronda Rousey in an I Quit match is officially set. Hopefully we get some built towards those matches this week so let's get to it.

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

We open with a long recap of Roman Reigns sending the Usos after the Raw Tag Team Titles, setting up a pair of matches on Raw.

Here are Raw Tag Team Champions Rated RKBro for a chat. We get a lot of posing before Riddle talks about how stoked he is to be back on Smackdown, especially with his best friend Randy. After going on about Worcester being the name for Worcestershire sauce, but it's named after the one in England, not this one. He learned that off of a Snapple lid, but Orton cuts him off to get serious. Orton wants the Usos out here right now so here they are for the showdown.

The Usos go on a rant about how this is their place and they're ready for RKBro because they're twin brothers who are ready to face anyone. Orton says he loves the family but the two of them are a*****. Orton says the Big Dog left the b***** off the leash and "frick that" (his words). We hear about Orton's career in a more fired up way than usual and the challenge is accepted. The Usos go to leave but come back in to pull Riddle off the ropes for a cheap shot, which Cole calls a hit and run.

Sasha Banks/Naomi talk trash to Rhea Ripley/Liv Morgan about Naomi vs. Ripley tonight.

RKBro asks Adam Pearce about the Tag Team Title match but they can only get Riddle vs. Jey tonight, because THAT'S ALL THEY DO FOR TAG TEAM FEUDS.

Naomi vs. Rhea Ripley

Sasha Banks and Liv Morgan are here too because we can't just have the freaking Tag Team Title match already and have to do a bunch of singles matches first. Ripley powers her into the corner to start and then runs Naomi down with a shoulder for a bonus. A knee sends Ripley to the apron and a big boot knocks her down. Naomi follows her out but gets blasted with a clothesline as we take a break.

Back with Naomi fighting up and hitting an ax kick, followed by a bulldog into the corner. A high crossbody gives Naomi two and she faceplants Rhea for two more. Naomi grabs a full nelson of all things but gets powered into a northern lights suplex. The missile dropkick sends Naomi flying for two but she's back with a Bubba Bomb (that explains the full nelson) into a cradle for two of her own. Ripley isn't having that though and grabs the Riptide for the pin at 8:44. Banks looking stunned that a monster like Ripley won a match is kind of funny.

Rating: C+. It's always nice to see Ripley getting a win like this, even if it keeps Naomi looking as middle of the road as possible. That is about all she does most of the time and the Women's Tag Team Titles isn't exactly some huge upgrade for her. Odds are the titles are retained on Raw though, allowing us to have Ripley and Morgan split after....a whole six weeks or so as a team?

The Usos don't answer any questions and head into Roman Reigns' locker room.

We look back at Happy Corbin turning on Madcap Moss.

Corbin doesn't like Moss being called his former associate because Moss was more of a hanger on or a gopher. He blames Moss for losing his undefeated streak and now the loss of dead weight is increasing his happiness levels. Just wait until Moss becomes the laughingstock of Smackdown.

Drew Gulak, auditioning to become part of the broadcast team,

asks Moss about what Corbin says. Moss says Corbin bought him his suspenders and taught him how to tell his jokes. That's why the jokes were bad, because having an audience of bald men with a bad sense of humor will kill anyone. He isn't worried about facing Humberto either and tells them where the Kiss Cam can go. McAfee explains the joke in case the visual didn't explain it.

Madcap Moss vs. Humberto

Humberto knocks him into the corner so Angel can get in a cheap shot, allowing Humberto to mock the kissing deal. The chinlock doesn't last long as Moss fights up and hits an elbow to the face. Moss pulls him out of the air for a fall away slam but the running shoulder in the corner hits Angel. Humberto takes one of his own and the Punch Line finishes for Moss at 2:28. Smart to give him a pretty decisive win, but a grudge match against Corbin isn't exactly enthralling stuff.

Angel yells at Humberto for losing to a joke.

Charlotte comes in to see Adam Pearce but Drew Gulak interrupts to ask about how he did. Charlotte says Gulak can interview her in the middle of the ring and don't be nervous.

Usos vs. RKBro is set for Wrestlemania Backlash.

Drew Gulak is in the ring to interview Charlotte. Gulak asks if she is ready for a hard hitting interview but is told to just hold the mic. Charlotte talks about how she turned down the I Quit match with Ronda Rousey because she wanted to keep Rousey safe. Gulak mentions that Charlotte tapped at Wrestlemania but Charlotte INSISTS that she was fixing her bra. That's not good enough for Gulak, who thinks that had the referee been in place, Rousey would be champion.

Charlotte thinks that is out of line and asks if Drew stopped wrestling so he could hold a microphone and ask stupid questions. She thinks everyone here has quit something, but

that is nothing she would ever do. Charlotte tells Gulak to get out of her ring but attacks him before he can. The Figure Eight makes Gulak tap (McAfee: "Charlotte Flair even taps out interviewers!") and shout that he quits until referees break it up.

We recap Sami Zayn running from Drew McIntyre last week.

Ludwig Kaiser narrates a video about the awesomeness of Gunther.

Drew McIntyre vs. Sami Zayn

Sami says he's going to prove himself here and then runs to the floor to start. McIntyre follows him out and hits Sami in the face (after avoiding punching McAfee by mistake) before taking him back inside. The Glasgow Kiss looks to set up the Claymore but Zayn runs again, this time taking the countout at 2:29.

Drew isn't happy post match.

Ricochet is ready to defend his Intercontinental Title.

Sami Zayn runs into Adam Pearce, who makes Sami vs. McIntyre III in a lumberjack match next week.

Intercontinental Title: Ricochet vs. Jinder Mahal

Ricochet is defending and Shanky is here with Mahal. They start fast with Mahal pulling Ricochet away from the ropes for a crash to the mat. Ricochet fights back up and counters the Khallas into a rollup for two. The Recoil sets up the 630 but Shanky pulls Mahal to the floor. That's fine with Ricochet who dives onto both of them for the big crash. Back in and the shooting star press retains the title at 2:59. Not quite a squash, but Ricochet needed any kind of a win to get him back on track after the Los Lotharios stuff.

Sheamus isn't happy with Butch losing last week but the

solution is that Butch needs to channel his aggression. They try to convince him that New Day is the enemy...but Butch slips away, because he's treated like a child for whatever reason.

Post break, Butch, Sheamus and Ridge Holland attack New Day, making me wonder why they bothered with the "lost" deal for all of four minutes.

It's time for part two of the Lacey Evans story. She talks about how her father caught up with her and her mother and had all kinds of anger and mental health issues. He would yell a lot and throw a bunch of things until he was eventually on the run from an assault charge. That helped her learn how to fight from a young age and she knows how to be at rock bottom. No one can phase her because she has been through worse. This continues to be a good bit too serious for a wrestling angle.

Natalya and Shayna Baszler don't like Lacey Evans treating them like this because Lacey doesn't respect legends. Lacey is trying to take over the locker room but here is Raquel Rodriguez to say how happy she is to meet Natalya.

Jimmy Uso vs. Riddle

Jey Uso and Randy Orton are here too. An early RK0 attempt is blocked and Riddle gets sent hard into the corner. The early chinlock goes on but Riddle fights up and they go to the floor. A superkick rocks Riddle again and we take a break. Back with Riddle firing off a kick and a knee to stagger Jimmy. The Bro To Sleep into a German suplex gets two but Jimmy is back with a pop up Samoan drop. Randy and Jey get into it on the floor to distract Riddle, allowing Jimmy to kick him down. The Superfly Splash misses though and a pop up RK0 finishes Jimmy at 9:02.

Rating: C+. Here we have another example of a pretty good match that meant absolutely nothing. Odds are we get every combination of these four until we get to the pay per view and while the big match will be good, it is going to have been so

watered down by all of these singles matches that it will lose a bunch of impact. I would love to see WWE change up their formula a bit, but that just isn't going to happen.

Overall Rating: D+. This was as ho hum of a regular Smackdown as I can remember in a long time. The wrestling was adequate enough but it felt like a night where they just said "oh throw whatever out there". Mahal gets a title shot, two tag matches are built up with singles matches, Sheamus N Pals vs. New Day continues, Charlotte beats up an interviewer and a Madcap Moss feature match. No Reigns, no Rousey, no Nakamura after the end of last week's show. It felt like they took a week off here (and they may have due to the holiday), but you can't get a pre-taped promo in from someone that matters?

Results

Rhea Ripley b. Naomi – Riptide

Madcap Moss b. Humberto – Punch Line

Drew McIntyre b. Sami Zayn via countout

Ricochet b. Jinder Mahal – Shooting star press

Riddle b. Jimmy Uso – RK0

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Rampage – April 15, 2022: Suddenly, This Matters

Rampage

Date: April 15, 2022

Location: Curtis Culwell Center, Garland, Texas

Commentators: Excalibur, Ricky Starks, Taz

It's a big show this week as AEW has suddenly started turning this show into something that matters. That means a World Title match this week, as Hangman Page defends the World Title against Adam Cole in a Texas Death Match. That could mean a possible title change and that means a nice feeling. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Blackpool Combat Club vs. Gunn Club

William Regal joins commentary as Austin punches Yuta in the face to start. Yuta ties the legs up and hammers away before putting on a leglock. It's off to Danielson to tie up the legs and rip at Colton's face, setting up a surfboard. Billy comes in and elbows Danielson in the face to cut him off as we take a break.

Back with Danielson hitting his way to freedom so Moxley can come in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Yuta hits a high crossbody. Danielson adds the running knee to Colton but Billy's double clothesline breaks up the double dives. A powerslam gives Billy two but Yuta is right back with his bridging rollup for the pin at 9:04.

Rating: B-. I'm trying to get into Yuta and it's just not clicking yet. In a similar way to Daniel Garcia, it's kind of hard to get behind the idea of these wrestling machines. The match with Moxley was a great story, but now he's just the third guy out there with Danielson and Moxley. This was a good showcase for the Blackpool guys though and I want to see where they're going next. Yuta can keep being a project, but he isn't quite there yet and I don't know if he's going to get there without some changes.

Butcher vs. ???

The guy, whose name couldn't be heard over the crowd, hits a missile dropkick at the bell but Butcher doesn't go down. A running clothesline in the corner sets up a powerbomb for the pin at 53 seconds. Shawn Spears, on commentary, approves as he should, because this was a good way to build Butcher up for Wardlow next week.

Dustin Rhodes talks about how he has been on this final run for a long time now and it is time to get one of his bucket list matches. He wants CM Punk next week on Dynamite.

Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Ruby Soho vs. Robyn Renegade

Soho hammers away to start but gets sent into the corner for the handstand in the corner. That lets Renegade get in a superkick to take over and the camel clutch goes on. We take a break and come back with Soho hitting a suplex and starting to get fired up. Soho sends her into the corner but gets hit in the eyes, allowing Robyn's twin sister Charlotte to switch places with her.

Excalibur says this is a Killer Bees switch, which isn't exactly the same thing as the Bees used masks. Instead it's more like the Bellas, but Excalibur likes to try and sound smarter than he actually is. Soho's top rope backsplash hits knees and she hits No Future to send Charlotte to the floor,

where the twins switch places again. A swinging Downward Spiral finishes Robyn at 8:23.

Rating: C-. The switch was a bit of an obstacle for Soho but I don't think there was any doubt about the winners here. Soho is someone who still feels like a star and could make a run in the tournament. That isn't going to be the case for either of the Renegade twins, making this little more than a warmup match for Soho.

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

Hangman Page calls Adam Cole a thorn in his side and promises to end things tonight. Cole says tonight is going to be the worst night of Page's career and it's time for the main event.

AEW World Title: Hangman Page vs. Adam Cole

Page is defending in a Texas Death Match (Last Man Standing). Before he even gets in the ring, Page starts throwing in chairs before knocking Cole down and going after his leg. They head outside with Cole being knocked around the ring and sent into the required table. The beating goes into the crowd with Page knocking him around the arena, though he does stop for a beer. Cole gets knocked back into the ring, where Page takes a chair to the top.

After head faking Cole to avoid the superkick out of the air, Page moonsaults down onto him with the chair for a five count. Page knocks him to the floor where Cole is busted open as we take a break. Back with Cole using a chain, which is tied to the top rope, for a clothesline to take over. Some chairs are set up but Page hits a Death Valley Driver/AA onto the tops of said chairs for the big knockdown.

The Deadeye on the pile of chairs sends Page outside, with Cole going up top. The huge moonsault is superkicked out of the air for a seven count, setting up the Panama Sunrise onto the chairs for eight. Page fights back up and they sit down in

the chairs for the slugout with Cole getting the better of it. Cole picks now to yell about how Page will never be Kenny Omega, earning himself the Buckshot Lariat.

Page uses a belt to tie Cole to the top rope before pulling out a barbed wire chair. Page can't use it though and Cole gets out for a low blow. That isn't enough for the win so Page wraps some barbed wire around his arm. Cole goes up, only to get knocked back down, with Page wrapping the barbed wire around Cole's head. The Deadeye off the apron through a table at ringside retains the title at 20:05.

Rating: B. I don't know what to think about these matches anymore. They have their moments and good spots, but AEW has done these things so often anymore that none of them feel even remotely important. How long will it be before they run another weapons match? Maybe two weeks? Other than that, this feud felt like a solid midcard title feud that became a World Title feud, which didn't do it any favors. Solid fight, but nothing that is going to have any staying power.

Overall Rating: B-. Another good week on the show, though the best part of this was the time slot. I would absolutely love for Rampage to move to seven permanently, just for the sake of the night wrapping up earlier. Much like the third hour of Raw going until 11, there is something draining about a show going that late. This was a better way to start the Friday night wrestling lineup and they had another nice show, especially with an actually important main event for once.

Results

Blackpool Combat Club b. Gunn Club – Bridging cradle to Billy Butcher b. ??? – Powerbomb
Ruby Soho b. Robyn Renegade – Swinging Downward Spiral
Hangman Page b. Adam Cole – Deadeye through a table

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