Impact Wrestling — January 27, 2022: Two Guys Steal The Show

Impact Wrestling

Date: January 27, 2022

Location: Charles Dodge Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Tom Hannifan

We continue on the road to No Surrender and now we know what we are going to be getting in the show's main event. W. Morrissey will be challenging Moose for the World Title in what should be a heck of a hoss fight. Other than that, we have the continuing adventures of Honor No More, which at least now has a name. Let's get to it.

Here are last week's results if you need a recap.

Opening recap.

Opening sequence.

Chris Bey vs. Jake Something

Bey dropkicks him into the corner at the bell but runs into a big backdrop. A right hand rocks Bey and it's time to head outside. That means a face first drop onto the apron but Bey is right back with a positing. There's a dive to the floor to drop Something again and a basement dropkick sends him into the corner. Something's comeback is cut off with a neckbreaker and a superkick drops him for two. The chinlock doesn't last long as Something fights up to plant him for a breather.

Back up and Bey's running hurricanrana is countered into a heck of a sitout powerbomb for two. The spear misses in the corner though and Bey stomps him in the back. Bey kicks him in the head and hits a poisonrana for two more and they're both

down. A low superkick doesn't do much good for Bey as Something is right back up to run him over hard. Bey goes up top but dives into the swinging Boss Man Slam to give Something the upset pin at 9:39.

Rating: B. That might be a bit high but I had a great time with this one. Bey can work well with anyone and this was Something's best match to date as he was hanging in there move for move. The ending caught me by surprise too as you wouldn't expect Something to pick up this kind of a win. Heck of a match here and I had a lot of fun with it.

Post match the Guerrillas of Destiny run in and beat Something down. Mike Bailey runs in for the save but Jay White returns and takes him down. The Guerrillas say they're coming for the Tag Team Titles as New Japan is here (again).

Honor No More is in the crowd so here are a bunch of Impact wrestlers to tell security to let them in the ring. Scott D'Amore comes in to say these guys don't represent Ring of Honor because they don't even work there anymore. People like Jonathan Gresham represent Ring of Honor but Maria says they just want an opportunity. Rhino wants to give them an opportunity at a beating so D'Amore makes a match for No Surrender, with Honor No More's futures around here on the line. We can even have a preview tonight with PCO vs. Chris Sabin.

Madison Rayne tells Kaleb With A K to not screw up during tonight's scouting mission against the IInspiration.

Scott D'Amore has Honor No More stay in a private locker room....which happens to be a storage room. Former Ring of Honor owner Cary Silkin comes in and doesn't seem pleased with these people. D'Amore and Silkin leave together.

Kaleb With A K/Madison Rayne vs. IInspiration

Non-title because Tenille Dashwood can't be here. Cassie

armdrags Madison down to start and a headscissors sends Madison over to Kaleb With A K (in a neck brace). That means another armdrag but Kaleb With A K blocks another one, allowing the tag to Jesse. The IInspiration kicks Kaleb With A K down but Madison offers a distraction so he can superkick Cassie down.

We take a break and come back with Rayne elbowing Cassie in the face for two. That doesn't last long as Cassie gets over for the tag to Jesse, who hits a reverse DDT for two on Madison. Kaleb With A K comes in off a blind tag and flips Jesse down so it's back to Cassie. Everything breaks down and Cassie reverses Kaleb With A K's powerbomb into a sunset flip for the pin at 11:12.

Rating: C. It's so strange to see the IInspriation as faces but it's even stranger to see them doing well in the roles. This was a good way to go with the team pinning the goofy manager and that's all they should have done. It says a lot that the IInfluence vs. the IInspiration is such a showdown but I do kind of want to see the match, so well done.

Jake Something thanks Mike Bailey for having his back but here are Ace Austin and Madman Fulton to check on Bailey. A teamup against the Bullet Club is suggested but Austin isn't sure. Gail Kim comes in and she certainly is sure.

The Quintessential Diva, Gisele Shaw, is coming.

The Good Brothers tell Violent By Design about the Bullet Club but Violent By Design don't see that being their problem. The Brothers want to kill the Club that they created and say it gets Violent By Design closer to the titles. That gets Violent By Design's attention so they're in.

The Knockouts are around the ring and Gail Kim introduces Mickie James for a State of the Knockouts Address. Mickie is honored to be out here in front of everyone here because the Knockouts division has never been better. She puts over the

other champions and talks about how awesome it was to have a Knockouts Ultimate X match.

Then there is Deonna Purrazzo, who might be the worst human she has ever been in the ring with, but at worst she is the third best Knockouts Champion ever. That is too far for Purrazzo, who thinks this is a waste of time because she knows she is the greatest of all time. Purrazzo leaves, which Mickie says proves her point.

In two days, herstory will be made again when a Knockouts Champion is going to be in the Royal Rumble and go on to Wrestlemania to set up a champion vs. champion match. Chelsea Green gets in the ring to praise James and goes over her resume. She wants the first shot but here are Tasha Steelz and Savannah Evans to say no one cares about Green.

Steelz brags about how great she is and says she'll be taking the title at No Surrender. She hits Mickie in the ribs with the X and the big beatdown is on with Mickie and Chelsea cleaning the ring. This was a long setup for a reminder that James is in the Rumble and that Steelz is still coming for the title.

Steve Maclin is upset that he lost to Jonathan Gresham last week in a Pure Rules match. He throws the interviewer out but Gresham comes up, saying Maclin can have a non-title match next week without Pure Rules.

We look at Jordynne Grace successfully defending the Digital Media Title at Terminus.

Grace will give Matt Cardona a shot at the Digital Media Title. Cardona is a pioneer in this area, but that was back when MySpace was a thing. He can have his shot, but don't go crying about it on Live Journal.

Here is Brian Myers with the Learning Tree, now with several new recruits.

W. Morrissey vs. Learning Tree

There are nine people for the Learning Tree and the destruction is on in a hurry, with some people being thrown over the top onto others. A powerbomb sends one of them onto VSK to give Morrissey the pin at 2:35.

Post match, Brian Myers goes after Morrissey but it's Moose running in to jump Morrissey as well. The Learning Tree comes back in but gets cleared out, allowing Moose to spear Morrissey down.

Raj Singh has a new protege for next week but an unimpressed John Skyler pops up. Skyler will take on said protege next week.

Johnny Swinger vs. Jonah

This is the result of Swinger running his mouth earlier (I'm shocked too). Swinger's single leg doesn't work as Dan Lambert is watching. Jonah throws him down, this a backsplash, and finishes with the Tsunami at 1:17.

Post match here is Decay to check on Swinger and stare at Jonah. That's a weird way to go.

Here's what's coming at various shows.

PCO vs. Chris Sabin

Good thing Honor No More already has a tron video. The rest of the team is here with PCO so Sabin's friends come out with him as well. PCO drives him into the corner for a shot to the face but Sabin isn't having that. He is however having a drive right back into the corner as PCO hammers him down again without much trouble. Sabin's arm is sent into the buckle a few times but he fights back anyway. Honor No More trips him down so Eddie Edwards does the same to PCO, meaning the Impact guys are out.

We take a break and come back with Sabin raining down right hands in the corner but PCO tosses him outside with ease. The running flipping suicide dive takes Sabin down on the floor again. PCO makes it worse with a posting and there's the big flip dive off the top to the apron.

Back in and a DDT plants Sabin again but the PCOsault misses. Sabin manages a middle rope dropkick and PCO gets knocked to the floor. That means a suicide dive from Sabin and a high crossbody gets two back inside. A side slam plants Sabin but he gets his knees up to block another PCOsault attempt. Sabin has to deal with Honor No More though and PCO grabs a Bubba Bomb for the pin at 15:15.

Rating: B-. That's the only way this match could have gone and it was an entertaining path to the correct ending. You can't have Honor No More lose so early in their run and it isn't like Sabin is going to be hurt by taking a fall after interference from the rest of the team. No Surrender shouldn't be that big of a surprise either, but it's nice to see how things are going on the way there.

Post match the Impact guys come back out and the big brawl is on. Josh Alexander gets Vincent in the ankle lock but a save is made to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Rather good show this week as they built things up, continued some stories and had solid action throughout the night. There are things going on here that I want to see and for the first time in the better part of ever, I'm looking forward to what Impact is doing on more than one front. Well done, and the Honor No More stuff is keeping my interest above all else.

Results

Jake Something b. Chris Bey — Swinging Boss Man Slam IInspiration b. Kaleb With A K/Madison Rayne — Sunset flip to Kaleb With A K

W. Morrissey b. Learning Tree — Double pin Jonah b. Johnny Swinger — Tsunami PCO b. Chris Sabin — Bubba Bomb

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.

Monday Night Raw — August 27, 2007: The Old HHH

Monday Night Raw

Date: August 27, 2007

Location: TD Banknorth Garden, Boston, Massachusetts

Attendance: 15,135

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We're done with Summerslam and the big story is that John Cena defeated Randy Orton to retain the Raw World Title. That isn't something I would have bet on and the ending so clean was even

more of a surprise. Usually that would mean the end of a feud but that isn't how things tend to work in WWE. Let's get to it.

Here is Summerslam if you need a recap.

We look at John Cena retaining the Raw World Title over Randy Orton in the Summerslam main event.

Here is Orton to get things going. Orton can't believe that Cena retained the title at Summerslam but now he wants a rematch. The next time will be different because he is demanding another shot against Cena. Cue Cena, who pauses to hug his dad (uh oh) in the front row. Cena talks about how Orton is making excuses but lost last night. Orton wanted to make a statement, but now Cena has a statement of his own: THE CHAMP IS HERE!

Last night, Orton lost and Cena thinks there is someone who made his return and deserves a shot. While he can't make matches, Cena likes the idea of defending against HHH tonight. Cue William Regal to say Cena won't be facing either HHH or Orton, because he'll be facing an imperial man: King Booker. Cue Booker, so Orton tries a quick RKO on Cena but gets shoved away. Orton seethes and leaves after we got to the point more quickly than usual.

Mr. Kennedy vs. Jeff Hardy

Feeling out process to start with Kennedy taking him into the corner but getting slapped in the face. Hardy claps the fans into things and gets pummeled in the corner for his efforts. Some knees to the ribs and shots to the back of the head put Hardy down again but he fires off right hands in the corner of his own. A clothesline sends Kennedy outside and Hardy hits the big dive as we take a break.

Back with Kennedy working on a bodyscissors before sending Hardy ribs first into the post. The logic continues with an

abdominal stretch before Kennedy drives him back first into the corner. That's broken up and Hardy hits a quick Whisper in the Wind for a breather. A rollup gets two and there's the slingshot dropkick in the corner to rock Kennedy again. The Swanton only hits knees though....and here is Umaga to chase Kennedy off and superkick Hardy for the DQ.

Rating: C+. This was oddly more about punching and kicking than you might expect, which isn't usually Hardy's style. They were getting into more of the rhythm that these two might have been expected to have before Umaga came in to kick Hardy's head off. That should set up the next title feud and Hardy vs. the monster is something that could work very well. I'm not sure what is next for Kennedy, but he could use something else to do.

We see some clips of HHH returning to beat King Booker last night, with JR's mic being a bit messed up.

Vince McMahon is on his way to the ring for an announcement on Carlito's Cabana. Mr. Kennedy comes up and Vince compliments him on his match and says watch out for that Umaga. Kennedy wishes Vince a belated birthday and Vince points out that his middle name is Kennedy as well. This seems to leave Kennedy intrigued.

It's time for Carlito's Cabana with Vince McMahon as the special guest. Vince comes out and pleasantries are exchanged, with Vince saying he is now fifty years old (plus twelve more) and ordering everyone here to answer to him. Cue HHH to interrupt, with the fans going rather coconuts. HHH says Vince is now seventy and needs to worry about going senile.

Worry not though, because HHH is here and he has done some extensive research. He has narrowed the mother of Vince's son down to four women so here they are. First up we have a woman from Wrestlemania III, who a drunken Vince thought was Aretha Franklin. That would be a rather large woman named Mary, with

Vince saying she sang like Aretha that night. Then it's One Eyed Wendy, who lost her sight in one eye due to Vince, ahem, missing. HHH: "Looks like a hole in one."

Third is....Carlito's sister! Vince tells Carlito that they thought he was asleep, but HHH wants to know why the sister (who basically looks like a female Carlito) isn't spitting. Finally there is someone Vince knew as Frankie but now it's Frank. Hold on though as Frank is out due to having the wrong physical attributes.

Vince throws them all out and HHH talks about Vince being accused of running an illegal cockfighting ring. This leads to Vince listing the animals he loves, capped off by saying he loves co…and he cuts himself off. Vince leaves so Carlito yells at HHH, including spitting the apple in his face. Destruction ensues and HHH has a seat in the chair. The gag wasn't that great, but HHH being back and being less serious is a good thing.

The Condemned is on DVD.

<u>World's Greatest Tag Team/Daivari vs. Paul London/Brian</u> <u>Kendrick/Cody Rhodes</u>

London armbars Daivari to start and hands it off to Kendrick. That doesn't go as well as it's off to Haas, who gets caught in Haas' overhead belly to belly suplex. The now blond Shelton Benjamin (that looks stupid) comes in to suplex Kendrick as well but Daivari misses an elbow. That's enough to bring in Cody for a powerslam but Haas and Benjamin make the save. Everything breaks down and a high crossbody to Daivari gives Cody the fast pin.

Rating: C. Pretty by the book six man match here but what matters is continuing with Cody's push. He isn't getting any major wins or setting the world on fire but he is showing up and winning matches, which is how you make someone feel like a bigger deal. The other five guys just happened to be there,

but it is better than having the same match over and over.

Post break Daivari is still in the ring but here is Cryme Tyme to interrupt his usual rant. They steal his head scarf (his "Durka Durka" according to JTG) and want \$5 but Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch cut him off this time. Instead, JTG steals Cade's hat and Cryme Tyme runs off. The hat is tossed into the crowd and chants of MONEY MONEY, YEAH YEAH are on.

Randy Orton storms into Vince McMahon's office and demands a rematch with John Cena. Vince says not so fast, because Orton has to earn it. Orton storm off.

Maria vs. Beth Phoenix

Or not as Beth jumps her during the entrance and the big beatdown is on. Maria can't go so no match.

Candice Michelle isn't scared of Beth Phoenix and will face any challenge. She also isn't scared of Snitsky, who pops up behind her. Snitsky says it is a challenge for him to limit his destruction.

Vince McMahon is ready to find out his son and thinks he'll learn the identity next week. William Regal comes in with some information but wants Coach gone before he'll say anything. Vince says say what it is, with Regal saying that Shane, Stephanie and Linda will be here next weeks, with attorneys. Silent glaring ensues.

King Booker vs. John Cena

Non-title and Queen Sharmell is here too. Cena backs him into the corner to start but Booker comes back with some kicks tot he face. The fisherman's suplex drops Booker back down and the armbar goes on. Booker has to bail to the ropes to get out of the STFU and we take a break.

Back with Cena making a comeback but Booker hits a spinwheel kick to take him down. Cena has to power out of a chinlock and

grabs a spinebuster to plant Booker again. The side slam gives Booker two and he puts on a top wristlock. Cena comes up again so it's a superkick to give Booker two more. Another comeback is loaded up but Randy Orton runs in to take Cena out for the DO.

Rating: C. This didn't have the most drama as it was a match built around waiting on Orton to come in and jump Cena. They didn't exactly hide what they were going for earlier today and that isn't a bad thing. I'm not entirely wild on having Cena face Orton against after beating him clean, but it's not like the two of them have fought forever and ever or anything.

Post match Orton and Booker beat Cena down. Orton gets all serious and rolls outside, where he grabs Cena's dad. The Punt leaves Cena Sr. laying to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. They had a bit of a weird show here, as it wasn't so much about the show they were running but rather the shows that they were setting up. Next week will see all of the McMahons here and that should be the sign for a big step forward in the search for Vince's son. Other than that, we're on the way to Unforgiven and that should be a sold Summerslam rematch show. Overall, not a great show here, but the bigger stuff seems to have been officially put on standby.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.

Daily News Update — February 5, 2022

Happy anniversary of the end of Hogan's first title reign.

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

<u>Smackdown - February 4, 2022</u>

Rampage - February 4, 2022

More Details On Drew McIntyre's WWE Return, What Is Next For Him.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/details-drew-mcintyres-w
we-return-next/

Elimination Chamber Match Could Set Up Huge WrestleMania Showdown.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/elimination-chamber-matc
h-could-set-up-huge-wrestlemania-showdown/

Back To It: WWE Star Returning From Injury Soon.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/back-wwe-star-returninginjury-soon/ Roman Reigns Has A New Universal Title Challenger For Elimination Chamber.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/roman-reigns-new-univers
al-title-challenger-elimination-chamber/

Run It Back: Grudge Rematch Set For WWE Elimination Chamber.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/run-back-grudge-rematchset-wwe-elimination-chamber/

Another WrestleMania 38 Main Event Officially Set.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/another-wrestlemania-38main-event-officially-set/

Three WWE Stars Expected To Return Before WrestleMania 38.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/three-wwe-stars-expected
-return-wrestlemania-38/

Big E.'s WWE Career Is Getting Quite The Change.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-stars-time-singles-w
restler-come-end/

As always, please check out all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and <u>get on</u> <u>the Wrestling Rumors Facebook page.</u>

New Column: Same Old Rumble

Troubles

In which I ramble on about how annoying the Royal Rumbles were.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-rumble-rabble
/

Rampage - February 4, 2022: That Was Sweet

Rampage

Date: February 4, 2022

Location: Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Illinois Commentators: Excalibur, Taz, Chris Jericho

We're still in Chicago and it's a stacked card as Jay Lethal challenges Ricky Starks for the FTW Title. On top of that, Sammy Guevara defends the TNT Title against Isiah Kassidy and Adam Cole faces Evil Uno. Ok so maybe they're not all huge matches this time around. Let's get to it.

Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.

Adam Cole vs. Evil Uno

Cole jumps him to start and the choking begins on the ropes. That lets Cole get a bit more cocky but Uno fights up and runs him over. The Swanton hits knees though and some kicks rock Uno. The Boom finishes for Cole at 2:25. That's what this should have been.

Post match Cole lists off a bunch of names that he has beaten while he is still undefeated. He doesn't care about last week because it doesn't exist. What does exist is a new Adam Cole and now he is ruthless. He has won World Titles and always winds up dominating anywhere he goes. There is one thing that is certain: he will become the World Champion.

Jade Cargill is ready to become 27-0 and laughs at the idea that she is green. She's green like money.

TNT Title: Sammy Guevara vs. Isiah Kassidy

Sammy, with taped ribs, is defending and Matt Hardy/Marq Quen are here with Kassidy. Feeling out process to start until Kassidy goes after the bad ribs. That doesn't bother Sammy, who sends him outside for the big flip dive. There's the nip up as well, just to show off a bit. Sammy goes after Quen though, allowing Hardy to hit a Side Effect onto the apron.

We take a break and come back with Kassidy staying on the ribs. Sammy fights up and tries the GTH but the ribs give out. Instead it's Kassidy charging into a superkick. Sammy goes up but here is Andrade for a distraction. A Backstabber gives Kassidy two and he sends Sammy outside for a dive. Back in and a Swanton to the back gets two but Sammy fights up and springboard dives onto Quen. A springboard cutter gives Sammy two and the GTH retains the title at 9:12.

Rating: C+. This was exactly as the match should have gone. There was no reason to believe that Guevara was in trouble in a straight match against Kassidy so stacking the odds is the way to go. It made for a nice challenge to Guevara before he can move on to something else. Doing things like this is going to make Guevara seem like a bigger deal and that's what they made work here.

Post match Andrade gets in the ring behind Sammy but Darby Allin runs in. Allin isn't interested in the money offered to him so it's a big staredown instead. With Andrade and company

gone, Allin slaps Guevara's TNT Titles (because Sammy is carrying both of them), which might be a warning.

QT Marshall is sending someone after Hook.

Kris Statlander doesn't think Layla Hirsch has been acting like an amateur wrestler…and then Hirsch blasts her in the back with a chair.

Mercedes Martinez vs. Thunder Rosa

Rosa hammers away to start and takes Martinez down for some elbows to the back. They head outside with Rosa snapping off a suplex before heading back inside. Martinez runs her over this time and we take a break. Back with Martinez hitting a super Death Valley Driver for two but Rosa plants her right back down. They head outside where Martinez whips out a pipe and hits Rosa in the face for the DO at 7:41.

Rating: C. This was intense while it lasted, but the ending has me wondering just how hard Rosa is going to smash Martinez in their violent rematch. That's where Rosa shines and hopefully it finally moves towards the big Rosa vs. Baker showdown. You have to do something like this to get there though and that's a fine way to go, even if a DQ still feels weird around here.

Video on Serena Deeb.

Mercedes Martinez is happy with what she did but here is Britt Baker to say a DQ isn't what they agreed on. If that's what she wanted, she would have had Jamie Hayter do it for her. Baker paid Martinez to take out Rosa and now she better not lose again, or Baker will have her out of here faster than Martinez left her last job. Violence is teased but Hayter gets in between them.

Jay Lethal is ready to take the FTW Title. Ricky Starks doesn't think so.

FTW Title: Jay Lethal vs. Ricky Starks

Starks is defending and has Powerhouse Hobbs with him. Lethal elbows him down to start and chops away as you might have expected. Starks gets sent outside for the suicide dives but a Hobbs distraction lets him run Lethal over. We take a break and come back with Lethal getting two off a backslide and la majistral is good for the same.

There's the Lethal Combination for two more but a hurricanrana is countered into a heck of a sitout powerbomb for another near fall. Lethal fights back again so Hobbs gets up for a distraction. Lethal's dive is countered so here's Dante Martin to take out Hobbs. Back in and Lethal hits a cutter for no cover (Jericho: "JAY YOU MISSED YOUR SPOT!"). The Lethal Injection is loaded up but Starks counters into the Roshambo (that was SWEET) for the pin to retain at 12:42.

Rating: B-. The ending was excellent as Starks couldn't have timed that better. Lethal is someone who serves as a perfect challenger in a spot like this as he could win the title but also gives Starks a good run for his money. At the same time, I'm not entirely sure the FTW Title needs to exist around here, as it often comes off as "oh yeah that's still a thing" more than a valuable prize.

Overall Rating: C+. Another rather good show, though it still feels like they pack in a lot. In this case, that wasn't the best feeling as it came off as rushed. I could go for them slowing down a bit, as this feels like it would be better as a forty five minute show (which obviously can't be done on TV). That being said, it's still FAR from a bad show and I don't remember the last time they had a bad one, with this being the latest solid effort.

Results

Adam Cole b. Evil Uno — The Boom Sammy Guevara b. Isiah Kassidy — GTH Thunder Rosa b. Mercedes Martinez via DQ when Martinez hit her with a pipe

Ricky Starks b. Jay Lethal — Roshambo

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.

Smackdown - February 4, 2022: The Long And Winding Road

Smackdown

Date: February 4, 2022

Location: Paycom Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Commentators: Pat McAfee, Michael Cole

We're done with the Royal Rumble and it's time to get going on the Road to Wrestlemania. That is going to get going on this show with a pair of big talking points. First up, Paul Heyman will be explaining why he sided with Roman Reigns and Ronda Rousey might be announcing her Wrestlemania opponent. Let's get to it.

Here is the Royal Rumble if you need a recap.

We open with a recap of Brock Lesnar getting screwed out of the WWE Title at the Royal Rumble but then coming back to win the Royal Rumble later in the night. Then he announced that he will be challenging Roman Reigns for the Universal Title at Wrestlemania.

Here is the Bloodline to get things going, complete with a look at Reigns retaining the Universal Title over Seth Rollins at the Royal Rumble. Paul Heyman talks about how there was no plot or plan, because he made a huge mistake by telling Reigns what he thought. He felt that Reigns needed to be protected and he made a mistake. The Coronavirus picked the wrong human to infect and Heyman got Lesnar the WWE Title match. It would leave everyone where they needed to be…except for Heyman when it comes to Reigns.

On Lesnar's first night as champion, he came to Smackdown and challenged Reigns to a title for title match at Wrestlemania. Heyman says Lesnar was as stupid as he looked because he was stuck with a happy Saskatchewan farmer who wants to take everyone to Suplex City. Then we got to the Royal Rumble, where the Goat slayed the Beast to save Heyman from having to say the same things over and over.

Heyman starts saying the catchphrase but says you will never hear it again. He now realizes the truth: Lesnar needs to be protected from Reigns. Then Reigns offered him the hand of the Bloodline, which is why Heyman handed over the title to smash Lesnar in the face with it. Now there will be no title for title match because Lesnar will acknowledge Roman Reigns, which Heyman demonstrates.

Heyman tells the fans to acknowledge the Tribal Chief....and it's Goldberg time. Goldberg comes to the ring and gets straight to the point with the challenge for Elimination Chamber. For the love of all things good and holy, PLEASE DO

THE MATCH ALREADY! WWE has been threatening us with this stupid match for two years now so let them do it already and get it out of their system.

Ridge Holland vs. Ricochet

Sheamus and Cesaro are here too. Holland shoulders him down to start but Ricochet flips over him. Another dodge sends Holland outside but he avoids a charge and drops Ricochet face first onto the apron. Holland stops to say something to Sheamus though and it's a Codebreaker to give Ricochet the pin at 1:50.

Cesaro/Ricochet vs. Ridge Holland/Sheamus

Joined in progress after a break (thankfully without needing to show someone coming out and making the match) with Sheamus hitting the forearms to Cesaro's chest and then clotheslining him back in. Pat McAfee is holding the Shillelagh as Cesaro fights out of a chinlock and hands it back to Ricochet to pick up the pace.

A springboard forearm sets up a Lionsault for two as everything breaks down. Cesaro rolls Sheamus up for two but charges into a boot in the corner. A dropkick catches Sheamus with a dropkick on top but Holland tags himself in as Sheamus gets superplexed. Northern Grit finishes Cesaro at 2:54 to get his heat back after all of five minutes later.

<u>Jimmy Uso vs. Erik</u>

Preview of the Tag Team Title match at Elimination Chamber because this is how WWE hypes up tag team matches. Erik slips out of a fireman's carry to start and blasts Jimmy with a knee to the face. Ivar and Jey get into it on the floor, leaving Jimmy to superkick Erik down. The Superfly Splash (with the We The Ones pose in the air) finishes for Jimmy at 1:14 to continue the fast matches and weird booking choices.

We look at Aliyah beating Natalya in three seconds a few weeks ago. Then Natalya beat her up for a DQ in a rematch.

Aliyah vs. Natalya

Aliyah brags about the 3:17 record winning time but gets picked up without much effort. Back up and Aliyah gets in a takedown for some right hands of her own. A Rey Mysterio sitout bulldog gets two, meaning it's a shocked near fall face. Natalya hits the discus lariat and they head outside. This time Natalya beats her down for a good while, only to get sent into the barricade to give Aliyah the countout win at 2:22.

Here is the returning Drew McIntyre to say he is back. Before he can get very far, here is Happy Corbin for a distraction, but McIntyre pulls the sword out to stop a charging Madcap Moss. McIntyre wants to hear a funny joke about himself, with Moss saying that Wrestlemania is like a criminal who beats the charges: they both get off Scot-free. That earns him a Claymore (McIntyre: "Idiot.") and McIntyre promises to make Corbin's life h***.

Sami Zayn crashed the Jackass Forever premiere and got taken out by security. Johnny Knoxville even stabs him with an electric stick.

Zayn complains to Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville about letting that air on television. To calm him down, he gets his Intercontinental Title match in two weeks. Pearce: "Should we invite Johnny Knoxville?" Zayn leaves and it's Natalya coming in, saying she wants Aliyah next week, pinfall or submission only, Dungeon Style. Deal.

<u>Shinsuke Nakamura vs. Jinder Mahal</u>

Championship Contenders match and Rick Boogs' guitar doesn't work so McAfee dances to the entrance music instead. Boogs and Shanky are here too and here is Sami Zayn to join commentary.

Nakamura starts fast with the sliding German suplex but Kinshasa is countered into a fireman's carry gutbuster for two. Mahal punches him down and we hit the chinlock. The Khallas is broken up and Nakamura kicks him in the face. Kinshasa finishes for Nakamura at 3:14.

Rating: C-. At least they seem to have dropped the idea of Mahal as a thing, which is good news for everyone. Zayn has a good chance of winning the title in two weeks, which will end one of the most under the radar six months reigns since Nakamura's last under the radar six months reigns. This was your usually dull Mahal match, but that shouldn't be a surprise these days.

We look at Sonya Deville eliminating Naomi from the Royal Rumble.

Naomi wants Sonya to face her in the ring in five minutes. Sonya says she's busy so Naomi wants to do it next week. That won't work either, because Naomi is getting a Smackdown Women's Title match next week. Naomi doesn't buy it but Adam Pearce says it's for real.

Video on Goldberg.

Natalya goes to explain what Dungeon Style means to the bosses (which she couldn't do when she was in the room with them earlier). Xia Li walks out of the office instead though and Natalya decides to do this later.

New Day vs. Los Lotharios

This is the result of New Day interrupting Los Lotharios' Valentine's Day photo shoot. Kofi sends Humberto into the corner to start and rolls him up for two. An Angel distraction lets Humberto get in a cheap shot from behind though and everything breaks down. Kofi gets kicked down and we take a break.

Back with Garza TAKING OFF HIS PANTS and kicking Kingston in the ribs. Angel gets two off a belly to back suplex but Kofi kicks a moonsault out of the air. The hot tag brings in Big E. to clean house, setting up a wheelbarrow suplex into a top rope bulldog from Kofi....for two as Humberto makes the save. Big E. misses the spear to the floor and gets moonsaulted from the top, setting up a Doomsday dropkick for two on Kofi. The Wing Clipper is broken up and it's back to Big E. for the Midnight Hour and the pin at 9:43.

Rating: B-. This was a weird one as they did a big false finish which seemed to confuse commentary as well. If nothing else, it's weird to debut a big move like that and then have it get two, but it was indeed a surprise twist. That being said, it would be nice if WWE did something new with New Day, as you can almost feel the Usos showdown coming.

Here are Charlotte and Sonya Deville for the Ronda Rousey Wrestlemania announcement. Deville says Rousey has picked Becky Lynch for Wrestlemania so Charlotte gets to pick her opponent. Charlotte mocks the idea of facing Ronda, who hasn't done anything since she lost the title. So pick anyone for Wrestlemania because it doesn't matter. She'll pick Sasha Banks, who isn't even here tonight.

Charlotte wishes Banks was here tonight because Wrestlemania will be the best and worst day of her life. She can come sign the contract....and here is Rousey to interrupt. Rousey won the Rumble and says she gets to pick who she faces at Wrestlemania. She didn't fly into an ice storm with her baby for a chat though and now Charlotte gets to learn the family business of a beating.

Charlotte isn't special, but she is first. Rousey will see her at Wrestlemania, so the match is on. Charlotte says the title is her baby and prettier than Rousey's. The jacket comes off so Sonya tries to break it up and gets caught in the piper's Pit. Rousey snaps the arm for a bonus. So the Becky vs. Rousey

thing was a lie and Charlotte vs. Banks isn't happening? Why bother mentioning them in the first place then?

Overall Rating: C-. The short wrestling was a bit weird this week but they are clearly starting to move towards Wrestlemania. Elimination Chamber still needs to get done as well though, and that makes for a bit of a weird schedule. I'm rather glad that they're getting Goldberg vs. Reigns out of the way already, but it could make for a long two weeks on the way there. The rest of the show wasn't great with very little in the way of quality wrestling, but now we should be cranking it up in the coming weeks.

Results

Ricochet b. Ridge Holland - Codebreaker

Ridge Holland/Sheamus b. Cesaro/Ricochet — Northern Grit to Cesaro

Jimmy Uso b. Erik - Superfly Splash

Aliyah b. Natalya via countout

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Jinder Mahal — Kinshasa

New Day b. Los Lotharios — Midnight Hour to Angel

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.

Daily News Update — February 4, 2022

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

Summerslam 2007 (2022 Redo)

Ring of Honor TV - February 2, 2022

205 Live - January 28, 2022

NXT UK - January 27, 2022

New Title Match Set For WWE Elimination Chamber.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-title-match-set-wweelimination-chamber/

WATCH: NXT UK Title Match Ended Early Due To Nasty Injury.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-nxt-uk-title-match
-ended-early-due-nasty-injury/

WWE Considering Bringing Back Hall Of Famer For Elimination Chamber.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-considering-bringing
-back-hall-famer-elimination-chamber/

WWE Locker Room Morale Said To Be At An All Time Low.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-locker-room-morale-s
aid-time-low/

More Details On WWE/Mustafa Ali Standoff, How Long This Could Last.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/details-wwe-mustafa-alistandoff-long-last/

Daughter Of Former WWE Star Signs With WWE, Starting At Performance Center.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/daughter-former-wwe-star
-signs-wwe-starting-performance-center/

How A Missing WWE Producer Caused Problems At The Royal Rumble.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/missing-wwe-producer-cau
sed-problems-royal-rumble/

WWE Posts Record Breaking Fourth Quarter Financial Report With Staggering Numbers.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-posts-record-breakin
g-fourth-quarter-financial-report-staggering-numbers/

As always, please check out all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and <u>get on the Wrestling Rumors</u>
<u>Facebook page.</u>

NXT UK — January 27, 2022: What A Violent Start

NXT UK

Date: January 27, 2022

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Andy Shepherd

It's time for a big title fight but things are a bit different this time. Ilja Dragunov will be putting the United Kingdom Title on the line against Jordan Devlin but the match will be in the empty arena. I'm not completely sure why that is going to be the case, though the match sounds like it has some serious potential. Let's get to it.

Here are last week's results if you need a recap.

The opening video looks at the title match. Like it could or should be anything else.

Opening sequence.

Die Familie vs. Gallus

Joe Coffey and Teoman slug it out to start until Teoman is taken into the Gallus corner. Mark Coffey comes in for a chinlock, which is broken up without much effort. That means Mark can go up top, where a quick distraction lets Raja pull him down and take over. Teoman comes in and gets driven into the corner but comes right back with some arm cranking.

Now it's Dempsey getting a chance with a front facelock and a rather nasty arm crank. Raja's forearm gets two as the fans try to stay behind Gallus. Mark kicks Raja away and Teoman's save isn't enough to prevent the tag off to Wolfgang. Something like a powerslam gives Wolfgang two but he has to block Raja's Backstabber. The hot tag brings in Joe to clean house and a crossbody gets two on Raja. Dempsey's full nelson is broken up and a high/low takes him down for two. Everything breaks down and Teoman chop blocks Wolfgang, allowing Dempsey to grab an STF for the tap at 11:20.

Rating: B-. That's a big win for Familie and that is a great thing to see for one of their first matches as a trio. Beating

Gallus still means something as they are the big group around here these days. Dempsey continues to look like a dangerous man and Teoman/Raja work well together as this went rather well for everyone involved.

Video on Ashton Smith/Oliver Carter vs. Jack Starz/Dave Mastiff, which is being presented as a battle of experience.

Jinny vs. Amale

Jinny grabs a headlock to start but gets headlock takeovered down. Back up and Jinny gets dropped again, only to kick her way out of trouble. The armbar goes on to put Amale down for a change and Jinny rakes the arm to make it worse. Some hard knees to the ribs rock Amale again and it's off to the Octopus. That's broken up with some power, meaning some clotheslines and a hard whip into the corner to rock Jinny for a change. A suplex gets two but Jinny elbows her in the head. Some big shots to the head put Jinny down and it's a rollup with feet on the ropes to finish Amale at 6:37.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what to make of these two but the feud seems like it will continue. Jinny is someone who is one of the bigger heels around here but she doesn't quite have that extra something to make her feel like a big threat. Amale seems like someone they want to push and it wouldn't surprise me to see her get a big win in a rematch.

Video on Meiko Satomura vs. Blair Davenport before their Japanese street fight next week.

Nathan Fraser is happy with his performance against Gunther (Or is it Walter around here?) when Die Familie interrupts to toast their own win.

<u>United Kingdom Title: Jordan Devlin vs. Ilja Dragunov</u>

Dragunov is defending and this is an anything goes empty arena match where falls count anywhere. Devlin jumps him during the Big Match Intros but Dragunov wants to fight. That means some German suplexes but Devlin kicks him low to get out. Dragunov gets tied in the ropes so Devlin can slap away and grab a chair. Instead of, you know, using the chair, Devlin goes to grab a screwdriver, with the extra time allowing Dragunov to fight out and chop away on the floor.

A hard clothesline drops Devlin and another chop against the barricade makes it worse. Dragunov's eye starts messing up though (thanks to Devlin jumping him before the bell) and Devlin whips him into the steps. A big running charge sends Devlin through the barricade though and Dragunov whips him through some chairs. There's a suplex onto some chairs for two and it's time to go back into the tech area.

Dragunov misses a charge and puts himself through a table though and Devlin rams him head first into an anvil case. Back up and Dragunov puts him on top of said case so Devlin moonsaults right back off for a double knockdown. They head back to ringside and Devlin pulls out a table. That takes too long though and it's Dragunov getting in a shot of his own, meaning the table is sent inside.

Devlin chairs him down but gets elbowed HARD in the head, setting up a slam onto the chair for two. Dragunov goes up top but gets chaired in the knee to bring him back down. The Devlin Slide is countered into a fireman's carry though and it's a Death Valley Driver through the table in the corner.

Torpedo Moscow can't launch because of the eye, with Devlin telling him to do it for his son. Another headbutt gives Devlin two so he pulls out some zip ties to basically handcuff Dragunov. Since he can't just get to the point, Devlin tries a Conchairto on the steps but Dragunov slips away and hits Torpedo Moscow off the steps to retain at 21:46.

Rating: B. It's a good, hard hitting brawl but this didn't feel like a first match. I'm not sure why they started with

something like this, though it also felt like the blowoff match between them. That's a weird way to go and I would have liked to see what they could have done with a regular match instead of a brawl. Still though, it felt like a big main event and Dragunov winning with his hands tied back was impressive.

Overall Rating: B. The main event is going to get the most attention but there was a lot going on here that was worth seeing. NXT UK continues to fly under WWE's radar and it's a very good show most of the time. I'm not sure who is next for Dragunov, but he could be holding the title for a pretty long time to come. Throw in some other good stories and this was a very nice show.

Results

Die Familie b. Gallus - STF to Wolfgang Jinny b. Amale - Rollup with feet on the ropes Ilja Dragunov b. Jordan Devlin - Torpedo Moscow

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.

205 Live - January 28, 2022: They're Trying Again (Kind Of)

205 Live

Date: January 28, 2022

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Sudu Shah, Nigel McGuinness

We're coming up on the Royal Rumble and that means absolutely nothing around here, as none of these people are going to be anywhere near a match that big for a long time. At this point, all that matters is having a show without any kind of a disaster, which may or may not be the case here. Let's get to it.

Here are last week's results if you need a recap.

Josh Briggs vs. Damon Kemp

Brooks Jensen is here with Briggs. Kemp drives Briggs up against the ropes to no avail to start so he does it again for about the same result. Back up and Briggs' running shoulder has no effect so he kicks Kemp down instead. The fans want to see it again but have to settle for a running elbow in the corner.

Kemp uppercuts his way out of trouble as commentary talks about the Royal Rumble. A Big Boss Man sliding underneath the ropes uppercut gives Briggs two and we hit the chinlock. That doesn't last long as Kemp fights up and hits some shoulders. A Regal Roll gets two but Briggs blasts him with a lariat for the pin at 5:07.

Rating: C. Kemp was showing some fire here but Briggs is the bigger star and actually needed the win at this point. The country boys are a good

midcard team, but it isn't like they are going to go very far at the moment. Not bad for a 205 Live match though and I could go for more of Kemp.

Valentina Feroz/Yulisa Leon vs. Amari Miller/Lash Legend

Legend doesn't seem to think much of Miller's perkiness. Feroz gets tossed into the corner to start and Legend mocks the team's dancing. With the direct attack not working, Feroz tries to pick up the speed a bit and strikes away before handing it off to Leon. Legend runs her over too and brings in Miller, who gets armdragged down.

Leon flips Feroz onto Miller for two but Legend tags herself in for a slam. There's a big toss to send Feroz into the corner and it's a kick from Miller into an elbow from Leon for two. Miller's chinlock doesn't last long and it's back to Leon for her own elbow. Legend comes back in and gets caught with a dropkick so Miller tags herself in. The argument is on and Feroz grabs a small package for the pin at 6:28.

Rating: C-. This was a weird one as it was more about Miller/Legend than the team that was already put together. It's good to see Feroz and Leon win as they're one of the few teams who might actually be worthy of a spot in the Dusty Classic, assuming the thing can get enough teams together in the first place. Legend and Miller seem more likely to feud than team together though, and that could make for a bad future.

Joe Gacy vs. Draco Anthony

Harland is here with Gacy. A headlock doesn't do anything for Gacy but neither does Anthony's shoulder. Anthony grabs a headlock of his own but a Harland distraction lets Gacy hit a belly to back suplex. We're off to the chinlock and it's time to talk about the Rumble again. Back up and Anthony makes the clothesline comeback, setting up an overhead suplex. That's enough for Gacy, who shoves him away and this the handspring clothesline for the pin at 5:19.

Rating: C. Pretty fine match here, even if Anthony wasn't going to beat a midcard star like Gacy. This is more like the main event that this show has been needing for a bit and that is nice to see after a long time.

Gacy winning wasn't in doubt, but at least they gave it a bit of time on the way there.

Overall Rating: C. It was nice to have this show see some star power (or as close as you're going to get to it around here) and that made the show fly by. Granted it's hard not to have it fly by when it's just over thirty minutes, but this was a bit of an improvement. At least they had a slightly better show this time around and that's always nice to see.

Ring Of Honor TV — February 2, 2022: The Last Great Moment

Ring of Honor

Date: February 2, 2022

We're about two months away from the relaunch and that means Ring of Honor should be able to get through with the recent content. Last week saw a few matches from last year's Final Battle and odds are that is what we are going to be getting here. There is a good chance that some of these wrestlers won't be around going forward, but at least they went out well. Let's get to it.

The matches are from Final Battle 2021.

Opening sequence.

Rok-C is ready to defend the Women's Title against Willow Nightingale.

Women's Title: Willow Nightingale vs. Rok-C

Rok-C is defending but gets taken down to start, allowing Willow to bust out a cartwheel. Willow blocks the running knees but Rok-C manages to snap off a running headscissors. Back up and Willow can't quite hit Three Amigos, so she plants Rok-C for two instead. This time Rok-C fights up with a Russian legsweep but Willow plants her for two more. A Pounce rocks Rok-C, sending commentary into various Monty Brown impressions and Rok-C down for another near fall.

The fans are split here, but the Willow chants are a bit louder. The Code Rok is countered into a belly to back kneeling piledriver to give Willow two more. Willow still can't hit her moonsault as Rok-C jumps her from behind, setting up a heck of a powerbomb for two on Willow for a change. Back up and Willow catches her on top, setting up a superplex. Now the moonsault can connect for two but Rok-C is right back with the Code Rok to retain at 9:42.

Rating: C. The match was fast paced but Willow absolutely came off like a bigger star here and I would have thought about changing the title. Rok-C is a young star but she doesn't exactly have anything to her besides being young and talented. Willow might not be the next big thing, but she stood out way more than Rok-C.

Post match here is Deonna Purrazzo to challenge Rok-C for a title for title (AAA Reina de Reinas/Impact Knockouts whenever she gets it back vs. Ring of Honor) match. Rok-C is in.

Colt Cabana talks about what Ring of Honor means to him after all the time he spent here. It gave him a bunch of memories (and injuries) but he can't believe how many stars became a bigger deal because of their time in Ring of Honor.

Bryan Danielson says he wouldn't he be here without Ring of Honor, especially Final Battle. He thanks the fans for making the shows and hopes that Ring of Honor will stick around.

We get a cool look at all of the Ring of Honor World

Champions.

Ring of Honor World Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Jay Lethal

For the vacant title, as Bandido is out with Coronavirus. The fans are rather happy with this one as they trade wristlocks to start with no one getting anywhere. A headlock takeover doesn't do much for Lethal either as they're certainly starting technical. Gresham manages to send him outside and catches Lethal with a kick in the arm on the way back in. A headlock takeover with an armtrap keeps Lethal down but Lethal cartwheels into the basement dropkick to get a breather.

Lethal slams him down to work over the back a bit more but Gresham small packages him for two. A slap to the face drops Gresham and a flapjack does it again. It's too early for the Lethal Injection and the Figure Four, as Gresham rolls him up for two more. Another kick to the arm cuts Lethal back down and Gresham needs a breather. They chop it out with Lethal getting the better of things but telling Gresham to chop him again.

A ripcord powerslam plants Gresham again but he catches Lethal on top. What looked to be a superplex is broken up so Lethal tries Hail to the King. Lethal is ready for Gresham's raised knees but can't get the Figure Four either. Instead it's a reverse Regal Roll to set up Hail to the King to give Lethal two more.

Gresham is right back on the arm and grabs a crossface chickenwing. Lethal flips forward for a cutter and they're both down again. That means it's time for the locker room to come out and watch as Gresham hits some running forearms for two each. The arm gives out and Gresham hits another forearm for two. The Lethal Injection is countered into a rollup for two, setting up the Octopus to make Lethal tap at 15:35.

Rating: B. Gresham absolutely had to win here as that is the story that has been set up for months. I can imagine that this

would have been the ending whether Bandido had been around or not and that is the right way to go. Gresham has been the workhorse of the company since its return and going with the Pure Rules wrestler as the final shot at the final show is a smart move.

The celebration is on, including Gresham's wife, Jordynne Grace, getting in the ring. Commentary thanks the fans, with Coleman saying "see you in April" to end the night.

Overall Rating: B-. These shows are easy to put together and almost guaranteed to have some good stuff, as the company can hand pick everything they air. What matters here is they focused on two of the top titles in the promotion from a show that felt special. Good show here, with that Gresham title win being one of the last great moments from the promotion.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

AND

Remember to check out Wrestlingrumors.net for all of your wrestling headline needs.