

Final Resolution 2024: They Needed More Time

Final Resolution 2024

Date: December 13, 2024

Location: Center Stage, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

It's the last major show of the year and in this case we have the main event of Nic Nemeth defending the World Title against AJ Francis. That's kind of a weird choice to make but they only had two weeks to set the show up so there was only so much to do. The real main event is a four way for the World Title shot at Genesis so let's get to it.

Countdown Show: Leon Slater vs. JDC

JDC grabs a headlock to start and dances, only to get armdragged down so Slater can dance. The big dive to the floor is teased before Slater hits a smaller dive to drop JDC again. Back in and JDC hits some running shots in the corner for two and we hit the chinlock. A Falcon Arrow gives JDC two and it's off to a front facelock.

Slater fights up for a leg lariat and a running dropkick gives him a needed breather. Back up and JDC sweeps the leg in the corner but it's too early for Down And Dirty. Instead Slater kicks him in the face on the top, setting up the big flip dive out to the floor. The Swanton 450 misses though and JDC rolls him up for the pin at 7:05.

Rating: C+. I have no idea why you would have JDC, the designated goon of the System, beat Slater, who has been getting a minor push. It's just a weird for the match and I'm not sure I get it. Slater's high spots were the usual entertaining parts of his matches, but he has just enough more to get by and that helps enough. A win would have helped more

though.

Countdown Show: Frankie Kazarian vs. Jonathan Gresham

As usual, Kazarian has to get in his usual special intro and the distraction lets him jump Gresham. That doesn't last long on Gresham, who grabs a quick Octopus hold in the ropes. The slingshot Fameasser in the ropes cuts Gresham off and a suplex drops him again. Another suplex gets another two and Kazarian works on a double arm crank.

Gresham fights up but gets pulled down into the chickenwing. That's reversed into the Octopus but Kazarian makes it over to the ropes. Back up and Kazarian sends him to the apron for the slingshot cutter (that was a nice one), setting up a thumb to the eye and the chickenwing for the win at 9:14.

Rating: C+. Well what in the world was that? This was Gresham's hometown and he loses by submission in the middle of the ring? Yeah there was cheating but I'm not sure how wise it is to have both good guys lose on the Countdown Show. Kazarian needs to be in the building to threaten the cash in, but did Gresham have to lose like that?

And now, the show proper.

The opening video looks at the major matches and doesn't have much of a theme.

X-Division Title: Moose vs. Kushida

Moose is defending and starts fast with a hard whip into the corner. Kushida fights back but gets sent outside for a toss into the steps. That's almost good for a ten count but Moose breaks it up, only to miss a charge (close enough) around the ring and into the steps for a crash. Back in and Kushida starts runs Moose's fingers over the ropes as Moose's arm is already banged up.

A flipping kick to the head staggers Moose, who drops Kushida

with another hard slam. Moose slaps him in the face though and Kushida fights up for Back To The Future and another near fall. Kushida strikes away at the arm so Moose goes up, only to dive into a Kimura. The rope is grabbed so Moose hits a dropkick to set up the spear for the pin to retain at 10:52.

Rating: B-. There is something to seeing Kushida strike away and crank on the arm like that, only for Moose to win through raw power. It's a fine story and it worked well here. Moose has been powering through the division so far and that could make for a long term story until someone can find a way to stop him. If nothing else, it's something new for him to do and that is overdue.

We run down the card.

AJ Francis is ready to win the World Title.

The Rascalz vs. PCO/Sami Callihan vs. Jake Something

Something's partner Hammerstone is injured and a replacement wasn't found so this is something of a handicap match. Callihan runs Wentz over to start but Something tags himself in and drops Wentz with some running shoulders. PCO comes in and gets struck down by the Rascalz, only to fight back and hand it off to Callihan. PCO's backbreaker drops Miguel and everything breaks down with Wentz managing a German suplex on Something.

A superkick into a crucifix bomb gets two on Something but Callihan throws Wentz onto a pile at ringside. PCO dives onto said pile but Something is back in with a powerbomb to send Wentz onto Miguel. Sitout powerbombs hit Callihan and PCO (the latter was impressive), only for PCO to pop back up. The Rascalz are back up though and it's a superkick into a backbreaker into a middle rope Meteora combination to finish Something at 10:57.

Rating: B-. Another fast paced match here with Something being

the logical person to take the fall here as he was coming in with a handicap. PCO and Callihan could turn into a nice resident monster team while the Rascalz are already established as a regular team. I could see them getting into the title picture again and this might be a start on the way there.

Post match the 23 appears again, prompting a WHAT WAS THAT chant.

Eric Young gives Steve Maclin a pep talk before the #1 contenders match.

Trent Seven vs. Ace Austin

Austin slugs away to start and takes him down for a basement dropkick to the floor. Back in and Seven gets in a cheap shot to take over so the pace can slow down. A spinning slam gives Seven two and we're hitting the early frustration. Seven's chops just annoy Austin so a DDT takes Austin back down. A powerbomb out of the corner lets Seven wipe himself with what looked like a Chris Bey shirt, which is enough to wake Austin up.

Austin drives him into the corner for some chops and a running double stomp gets two. Seven catches him on top though and it's a Birminghammer onto the apron for two, with Austin having to put his foot on the rope. Some chops to the neck set up the Seven Star Lariat but Austin slips away, only to get caught with a piledriver for...one. Another Birminghammer is countered into a DDT, meaning it's the Art Of Finesse into the Fold for the pin on Seven at 12:39.

Rating: C+. The ending with Austin doing his own version of the 1-2-Sweet is a nice thing to see and hopefully we get to see the team version again. Austin is more than talented enough to do something on his own but Bey is going to be on everyone's minds for a long time. Having Austin beat Seven is a nice way to go, but it's not like this is some epic feud.

Frankie Kazarian is ready for a big year and teases a cash-in.

Rosemary vs. Jordynne Grace

Grace powers her around to start but it's too early for a Juggernaut Driver. Some knees to the ribs stagger Rosemary but she's right back with the Upside Down. With that broken up, Rosemary hammers away on the neck and kicks her in the ropes for an early one. Rosemary plants her on the apron and hits a shot off the steps, followed by a choke back inside.

A hard palm strike knocks Rosemary back but she rises up, only to get dropped for two more. Grace cuts off a spear and knees her down for another near fall. They go outside so Rosemary can choke her on the ropes, earning her a hard drop onto the ramp. Back in and another spear gives Rosemary her own near fall but As Above So Below is blocked. Grace hits the Musclebuster...but someone in a mask pulls the referee out. We'll call that a no contest at 10:00.

Rating: B-. These two were starting to pick up the pace a bit here and it's nice to not have Grace pick up another win when she seems to be on her way out of the company in just a few weeks (in theory at least). The other interesting here is that the two of them have fought twice in the last few months and both of them have ended in a no contest. That's a nice little way to protect Rosemary, which is nice to see as she's quite the star in the division.

Post match the masked woman lays out Jordynne Grace and it's...Tessa Blanchard, who is returning after years away.

In the back, Blanchard says she's back to take what is hers and shoves Gia Miller down.

Joe Hendry vs. Steve Maclin vs. Josh Alexander vs. Mike Santana

For the World Title match at Genesis and Eric Young is on

commentary. It's a brawl to start with Santana and Alexander brawling in the ring. Maclin takes Santana's place but Hendry takes Maclin's place. The fall away slam is blocked and Santana is back in to enziguri Maclin in the corner. Hendry's delayed suplex puts Maclin down but Alexander makes the save. Back in and Alexander rolls some German suplexes on Maclin, who manages to escape and fires off some clotheslines in the corner.

Hendry is back in and avoids a middle rope dropkick from Alexander in a Samoa Joe style sidestep. Santana breaks that up and has the big staredown with Alexander. A middle rope knee gives Alexander two and he drops Santana with a belly to back. Back up and Santana's rolling cutter gets two on Alexander, who gets lifted up for a Doomsday Blockbuster to really leave him down.

Hendry is back up with a fall away slam but Maclin runs him over with a running knee. Alexander goes up but gets caught with a super fall away slam. Maclin hits the Jar Headbutt, only to get hit with a frog splash to give Santana two. With everyone else on the floor, Hendry hits a dive before he and Maclin hit stereo clotheslines. Alexander whips out the zip ties to tie Santana to the barricade before kicking Maclin low. That's enough to set up the C4 Spike but Hendry is back up with the Standing Ovation to pin Alexander and go to Genesis at 18:23.

Rating: B+. Yeah this was the big match coming in and it more than delivered. There was only so much doubt about who was going to win as Hendry had been presented as a main eventer over the last few weeks, but now all that matters is that he actually wins the title. I'd hope that is the case, but sweet goodness I'm almost scared to imagine what happens if it doesn't. Heck of a match here, and that is always nice to see.

Video on Chris Bey.

Nic Nemeth is ready for Joe Henry because he's going to beat AJ Francis tonight.

We recap Masha Slamovich defending the Knockouts Title against Tasha Steelz. Slamovich finally vanquished Jordynne Grace but now has to beat Steelz, who wants the title back.

Knockouts Title: Tasha Steelz vs. Masha Slamovich

Slamovich is defending and...here is Santino Marella to ban Alisha Edwards from the building and make this Falls Count Anywhere.. Slamovich kicks her down to start and gets two off an early cradle. A dive drops Steelz (and security) for two but Steelz is back up with a suplex onto the steps (geez) for two. Back in and Steelz hammers away at the chest and grabs the chinlock, which doesn't last long. Slamovich knocks her outside again, where Steelz grabs a hanging DDT for two.

Back in again and a superplex drops Steelz so they can slug it out. Steelz has to slip out of a powerbomb attempt and rakes the eyes, meaning it's time to head to the apron. Neither can hit a piledriver so they head to the ramp, where Steelz gets two off a cutter. Steelz's bulldog on the stage gets two more but Slamovich gets annoyed at being rammed into the stage. A few shots to the face set up a piledriver to retain the title at 12:35.

Rating: C+. You can only do so much with Steelz as a challenger to a monster like Slamovich as it's kind of hard to imagine Steelz being a threat. The stipulation helped a bit, but I couldn't imagine anything Steelz could throw out there being a threat to Slamovich. They didn't go too nuts here and the result was the right call.

We recap the Hardys defending the Tag Team Titles against the System in a tables match. The System lost the titles at Bound For Glory and then put the Hardys through a table, meaning it's time for revenge.

Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. The System

The Hardys are defending in a tables match (elimination rules) and it's a brawl to start with the champs hammering away. Back to back Plot Twists have the System on the floor and it's time for a table. There's a Twist of Fate to Myers but Edwards is back up for the save. A superplex saves Myers from being eliminated and Matt is sent through a table for the elimination at 5:12. That leaves Jeff on the ramp but Matt fights up and cutters Myers off the apron to even it up at 8:13.

Edwards and Jeff fight around ringside but Edwards gets slapped by a fan (and slaps him right back, in what was apparently not planned). Jeff uses the distraction to fight up and hit a basement dropkick inside. Myers sends Matt into the post and breaks up Jeff's Twist of Fate. Jeff gets dragged into the crowd, where the System sets up another table. Matt makes the save with a chair and Edwards is put on the table for a Swanton out of the balcony to retain the titles at 16:51.

Rating: C. The match was mostly wild but it felt like it was there to hide what the Hardys can't do anymore. There is only so much you can ask from two guys who are past the age where most stars hang it up and are very banged up after so many years. Throw in the fact that the feud as already run out of steam and there wasn't much to see here. The Hardys being featured players around here isn't helping TNA's reputation and the match was nothing that we haven't seen done better multiple times.

We recap Nic Nemeth defending the World Title against AJ Francis. Nemeth is a fighting champion and Francis talked his way into a title shot. Here we go.

TNA World Title: Nic Nemeth vs. AJ Francis

Nemeth is defending and Francis has KC Navarro with him.

Francis yells a lot and gets superkicked for an early two. A sleeper is broken up but Nemeth can't slam him. Francis knocks him down and here is Frankie Kazarian to join commentary. They head outside where Francis drops him onto the apron but it's too early for the chokeslam back inside.

For some reason Francis goes up, earning himself a superkick into a powerbomb for two. Nemeth drops a bunch of elbows for two but gets kicked in the face for another near fall. Some clotheslines and the running DDT put Francis down but he's right back up with a spear. A Vader Bomb gets two with Nemeth's foot on the rope.

Navarro shoves it off, which is enough for an ejection to make it one on one. Nemeth manages a quick Danger Zone for two but Francis drops him again. Francis' moonsault (oh dear) misses and Nemeth hits a Fameasser for another near fall. A Roode Bomb of all things gets two on Nemeth and the chokeslam connects, with Nemeth rolling out to the apron. Francis launches him back into the ring, where Nemeth hits a Fameasser into the Danger Zone to retain at 15:15.

Rating: C. This was about as good as you could get as Francis was little more than a filler challenger. That's not the worst thing in the world and they did try, but there is a reason Francis has that reputation. The match just wasn't anything worth seeing and Nemeth was doing everything he could to hold it together.

Post match Navarro comes in for the beatdown but Joe Hendry makes the save. Nemeth and Hendry stare each other down to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show was pretty much thrown together in a few weeks and it certainly felt like it. There was only so much that you could get out of this card and only the four way felt important. The rest of the show came off like it was there because they needed a show this month. You can have good

action throughout, but it isn't going to matter if the show feels like pure filler, which is how most of this came off.

Results

JDC b. Leon Slater – Rollup with feet on the ropes

Frankie Kazarian b. Jonathan Gresham – Chickenwing

Moose b. Kushida – Spear

The Rascalz b. Jake Something and PCO/Sami Callihan – Middle rope Meteora to Something

Ace Austin b. Trent Seven – Fold

Jordynne Grace vs. Rosemary went to a no contest when Tessa Blanchard interfered

Joe Hendry b. Mike Santana, Steve Maclin and Josh Alexander – Standing Ovation to Alexander

Masha Slamovich b. Tasha Steelz – Piledriver on the ramp

Hardys b. The System – Swanton to Edwards through a table

Nic Nemeth b. AJ Francis – Danger Zone

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Ring Of Honor – December 12, 2024: This Show. Again.

Ring Of Honor

Date: December 12, 2024

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We are eight days away from Final battle and the show is coming together. There are still some matches left to cover, but most of the top of the card seems to be set. As for this week, we're going to need to see who is going to Wrestle Dynasty as four women are fighting for the chance to go to Japan on January 5. Let's get to it.

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

Billie Starkz is ready to win the Wrestle Dynasty qualifier but Athena interrupts. She's going to need Starkz to lay down but Starkz isn't happy. Athena says that Starkz signed a binding lifetime contract until she's fired so get over it.

Opening sequence.

We run own the card.

International Women's Cup Qualifying Match: Leyla Hirsch vs. Red Velvet vs. Billie Starkz vs. Athena

Non-title. Athena says all three of them suck before heading to the floor for some jumping jacks. Starks gives Velvet a backbreaker and sends Hirsch outside for a dive. Velvet dives onto both of them but Athena is back up to send people into the barricade. Back in and Athena kicks Velvet down, setting up a springboard crossbody for two. All four are inside and we get a chain of submissions until Athena is pulled down to break it up. Hirsch sunset flips Athena for two and then drops

Velvet onto Athena for two more.

Starkz is back up for some near falls but hesitates to go after Athena. That lets Athena fight up and a step up hurricanrana sends Starkz down. Some near falls have Athena frustrated so she is sat up top for a Tower Of Doom, with Starkz getting the best of it. Starkz gets a near fall of her own and Athena is NOT happy, allowing Velvet to clear the ring. Velvet and Hirsch slug it out in the ring until an Athena distraction lets Hirsch drop Velvet with a forearm. Starkz tries to steal the pin but goes after Hirsch, allowing Athena to in Velvet at 10:09.

Rating: B-. Yeah they really did just pin the Women's TV Champion eight days before the biggest title match she's ever had for the sake of a qualifying match for a meaningless cup at Wrestle Dynasty. There was absolutely no one else in this division who could take this loss and yes you are still supposed to want to see Hirsch vs. Velvet. The match was the usual good enough stuff, but my goodness the way they make Final Battle feel worthless is beyond me.

We look at Chris Jericho and Bryan Keith laying out Matt Cardona.

Premiere Athletes vs. Outrunners

Magnum and Nese (with Josh Woods and Mark Sterling on the floor) have a pose down to start until Nese takes him into the corner without much trouble. A running dropkick and headscissors have Nese down though and it's Floyd coming in for some back and forth atomic drops. Nese takes Magnum into the corner for some stomping though and the Athletes get in a group beating on the floor.

Back in and Magnum avoids some charges in the corner, setting up a double clothesline. That's enough for the tag to Floyd so the house can be cleaned. Nese breaks up Total Recall and then Daivari does it as well, setting up Nese's pumphandle driver

for two on Floyd. That's enough to start the comeback and It's Turbo Time, meaning the Mega Powers Elbow sets up Total Recall to pin Nese at 8:04.

Rating: C+. They really are going to waste the Outrunners' rise to the top and not do anything with them. They've already reached the peak of their popularity and while that could have meant giving them some titles, say the ROH Tag Team Titles, but instead we need Dustin Rhodes and Sammy Guevara to have their ice cold team for the sake of a Texas residency from four months ago. The match was exactly what you would expect from these teams, with the Outrunners doing their thing and getting a nice reaction and not climbing the ladder in the slightest.

Dustin Rhodes talks about how he has been jumped by the Righteous and like he has done over and over again, he's gotten back up. Dutch has hurt him by talking about Dusty Rhodes and that bull rope so Dutch has crossed the line. Dutch is a sick SOB for using Dusty's kindness like this and now it's time for a double bull rope match. Sammy Guevara has always had his back and Dutch better never mention Dusty's name again. Note Sammy wasn't actually there, showing once again that this team is not exactly worth much.

Madison Rayne vs. Allysin Kay

Rayne is the hometown girl and takes her down to start. Kay misses a big boot and gets dropped with a running headscissors. Back up and Kay plants her down for two, followed by a suplex into a cross arm choke. With that broken up, Rayne avoids a charge in the corner and hits an enziguri. A middle rope hurricanrana takes Kay down but she's right back with a running boot for two. Back up and Rayne grabs a crucifix driver for the pin at 5:12.

Rating: C. Rayne is still decent enough in the ring but this was more about the live crowd than anything else. It's hard to

imagine her being anything significant around here, but giving her a one off win isn't a bad way to go. On the other hand you have Kay, who could be something if she stuck around but instead gets to lose time after time. It's a weird use of someone as good as she is, but at least it doesn't happen that often.

The Dark Order do a bad Grizzled Young Veterans impression and some backstage workers find it funny. The actual Veterans break it up and say Evil Uno (who wasn't involved) is better than this.

Toa Liona vs. Lee Johnson

Liona backs him into the corner to start and gets two off a swinging Rock Bottom. Johnson avoids a sitdown splash and hammers away to little avail. A dropkick staggers Liona and a frog splash gives Johnson two. The Big Shot Drop is blocked though and Liona hits a Pounce into something like a Banzai Drop for the pin at 3:02.

Rating: C+. They packed a good bit of stuff into this one and Liona looked ok on his own. At the same time, I'm not sure I get the logic of having Johnson and EJ Nduka getting a bit of a push as a team and then having Johnson lose a singles match to a tag wrestler. It's not terrible, but it's a bit weird seeing one half of a monster team win a singles match like this.

Post match Liona superkicks him down but EJ Nduka comes in for the save.

New Japan Strong Tag Team Titles: Grizzled Young Veterans vs. MxM Collection

The Veterans are defending and Johnny TV is here with the Collection. Gibson takes Mansoor down to start and cranks on the arm. Mansoor neckbreakers his way out of a double suplex and it's off to Madden, who tries to force a touching of the

tips. A cheap shot cuts off Mansoor but he's able to fight out of the Veterans' corner.

There's still not tag though as it's a belly to back suplex into a top rope splash for two no Mansoor. A spinebuster is enough to give Mansoor a breather and it's Madden coming in to clean house. Everything breaks down and a chokeslam/belly to back suplex combination gets two with Drake making the save. Drake uses the scarf to pull Mansoor down and Grit Your Teeth retains the titles at 6:31.

Rating: C. Not much to this one as the Veterans have been treated like nothing in AEW but they're going over the still popular Collection due to the New Japan connection. I'm fine with the Veterans being used a bit better, but having the Collection lose again isn't the best thing to see. It wasn't exactly a hot match either, though I'll take basic and ok over awful.

Paul Wight announces that Jay Lethal is returning to action in ROH at Final Battle. Lethal wants back in the title picture but QT Marshall comes in to say he wants Lethal at Final Battle. That doesn't work for Lethal, but Marshall insults him and the match is made.

From Final Battle 2021.

Kenny King vs. Shane Taylor

Fight Without Honor, meaning anything goes and weapons are provided. Riccaboni makes it more serious by talking about how these two are fighting to get their next paycheck elsewhere. A quick slugout takes things outside, with Shane sending him hard into the barricade a few times. The chair shot only hits post but Shane is fine enough to hit a backdrop on the floor.

Back in and King hits an enziguri but Shane hits him in the face over and over. Shane takes him up top, earning himself a super Blockbuster through a pair of tables at ringside. It's

already time for the required kendo sticks (you knew they were coming), with King cracking him over the back and choking away. King takes his sweet time bringing in a trashcan and charges into a Rock Bottom out of the corner onto said can.

Now it's Taylor getting in his own stick shots, with Riccaboni rapid firing off some Cleveland Indians names. A heck of a splash puts King through another table at ringside so we need another table. Back in and King manages to drive him through the table in the corner for two in an impressive power display. Shane is right back up with the BIG ladder, but takes a bit too long and gets hit in the back with a kendo stick.

King gets in a few more shots and manages to build a rather ridiculous structure, with one ladder bridged between two more. Taylor is laid across the bridged ladder for a splash from the big one, which doesn't look as impressive as it should. Taylor is right back up with Greetings From The Land for two of his own so King bridges a ladder between the apron and the barricade.

They stand on said ladder and slug it out until Taylor grabs the Marcus Garvey Driver...but the ladder slips, so King gets dropped HARD onto the floor. Well that was terrifying, and of course gets two back inside. Taylor grabs a chair so King tells him to "f***** do it", meaning it's a chair to the head. The Marcus Garvey Driver finishes for Shane at 18:01.

Rating: C-. I really couldn't get into this one as it was longer than it needed to be and a lot of the spots felt rather contrived. You can only get so far with a match like this, with so many weapons set up in the right spots to make such a match work. Throw in that terrifying crash on the floor and this wasn't exactly the most fun to watch.

Video on Shane Taylor Promotions, who are the fighters you've forgotten about and keep getting up.

Sons Of Texas vs. Eric Dillinger/Josh Crane

Non-title. The non-champions shove them around to start until it's Guevara taking over on Dillinger in the corner. Rhodes' Shining Wizard connects and Guevara gets hiptossed onto Dillinger for two. A double elbow drops Rhodes but Guevara is back in with a high crossbody to both of them. The GTH into the Cross Rhodes finishes for Rhodes at 3:39.

Rating: C. So Dustin uses his brother's finisher, mainly talks about his dad, and doesn't have his partner in the back for his promos about his tag matches. I'm not sure what he does to make him worthy of being a double champion but here he is, getting ready for another big match at Final Battle. I still don't get the appeal of Rhodes and Guevara, but hopefully they can lose the titles and go away after next week.

Post match here is the Righteous to take Rhodes up on his challenge for a fight tonight. Vincent asks the fans what they want to see but the people don't deserve it. He promises to use the cowbell to ring Rhodes' bell until he sees polka dots. Guevara has to calm Rhodes down, again showing that he is just a warm body.

Final Battle rundown.

Pure Rules Title: Matt Taven vs. Lee Moriarty

Taven is challenging and Moriarty has the rest of Shane Taylor Promotions and the Infantry with him. Moriarty takes him down by the arm to start and yells a bit before doing both things again. Taven reverses into an armbar and scores with a dropkick for a breather. They trade shouting their names before what might have been a low blow has Taven in trouble. A shot to the ribs sets up a waistlock into the abdominal stretch, meaning Taven has to use his first rope break.

The Border City Stretch makes Taven use his second rope break but he's back up with a spinning kick to the face. A lifting Downward Spiral sets up Just The Tip for two on Moriarty but the Climax is blocked. Moriarty's discus lariat sets up a

faceplant and another Border City Stretch makes Taven use his third rope break.

Back up and Taven sends him outside for a slingshot corkscrew dive, followed by Aurora Borealis. The ribs are too banged up though and a very delayed cover gets two. Moriarty has to use a rope break to escape a choke and he throws a right hand for the official warming. Taven is back up with a superkick but Moriarty ties him up with something like an Octopus in the ropes (no breaks) for the tap to retain at 11:19.

Rating: B-. And that's the Pure Rules Title match: someone uses their rope breaks too early and Moriarty beats them as a result. This comes after the challenger wins a single Pure Rules match and that's enough of a reason to set up a title match. That's all this whole quote unquote division consists of and this was the latest match before the title goes back into storage for a month or two.

Athena is going to take Final Battle off because she doesn't have a challenger...but Billie Starkz comes in to want a rematch from last year. Deal, with Athena dancing away to leave Starkz confused.

It's time for the contract signing between ROH World Champion Chris Jericho (in a Yankees hat) and Matt Cardona. Jericho flips off the fans and brags about how many titles he has won before declaring himself the King Of New York. He tells Cardona how lucky he is for getting this shot and misreads the fans' YOU'RE FROM CANADA chant as YOU'RE FROM NEW YORK.

Cardona calls him a fake, phony fraud and Jericho is using Ring Of Honor. Cardona isn't going to let this chance slip through his fingers so he signs. Jericho takes the pen and eventually signs as well. Bryan Keith tries to interfere but Cardona puts Jericho through the table to end the show. This does feel like a somewhat bigger match, but it's so disconnected from everything else in Ring Of Honor that it

doesn't feel like it belongs here.

Overall Rating: C. There is good enough action on here but the whole show is just so uninteresting that it's hard to care. I spent the entirety of this show just wanting it to end because it simply isn't entertaining. Stuff happens and it is more logical than it used to be, but that doesn't make it interesting. Final Battle has very little that I want to see and there is no reason to suggest that it is going to get better once the new year starts. Just a totally bleh show here with some good enough action but almost nothing worth seeing on the way to one of their biggest shows of the year.

Results

Athena b. Red Velvet, Leyla Hirsch and Billie Starkz – Forearm to Velvet

Outrunners b. Premiere Athletes – Total Recall to Nese

Madison Rayne b. Allysin Kay – Crucifix driver

Toa Liona b. Lee Johnson – Banzai Drop

Grizzled Young Veterans b. MxM Collection – Grit You Teeth to Mansoor

Sons Of Texas b. Eric Dillinger/Josh Crane – Cross Rhodes Crane

Lee Moriarty b. Matt Taven – Choke in the ropes

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Monday Night Raw – December 16, 2024: Few, But Good

Monday Night Raw

Date: December 16, 2024

Location: TD Garden, Boston, Massachusetts

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

We're done with Saturday Night's Main Event and there wasn't much of a change on the Raw side. Gunther is still the World Heavyweight Champion and we are officially on the road to the first Raw on Netflix. This week will see a pair of title matches as both the Intercontinental and Tag Team Titles are on the line. Let's get to it.

[Here is Saturday Night's Main Event if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a quick Saturday Night's Main Event recap and a preview for tonight.

Here is CM Punk to get things going. Punk: "Careful. Some people might get mad if you chant my name." A few weeks ago, he told Seth Rollins that he doesn't think about him while Rollins always thinks about Punk. While Punk is out here talking to his people, he knows that the stupid music is going to play and he's going to come tiptoeing out here like Liberace (who Punk loves) but wearing Elton John sunglasses doesn't make him Elton John. Just like growing up wanting to be CM Punk doesn't make you CM Punk.

If Rollins wants Punk to be the bad guy, that's fine. There

are no such thing as bad students but just bad teachers, because 16 year old Rollins is Punk's failure. If Punk still wants that lesson he can come and get it, but the last person who did that was Drew McIntyre. Punk has the fans chant his name, which has driven Rollins nuts for years.

Cue Rollins in the crowd, saying he's taking a good hard look at Punk. Rollins: "Nah, even from out here, you're still an a*****." Punk: "You still belong out there with all of the other CM Punk fans." Rollins talks about carrying the company while Punk was gone and this "fan" has more Wrestlemania main events than Punk ever will. The fight is on with referees and security barely being able to break them up. They get into the crowd and brawl some more. Good segment here, which should set up a big match between them down the line.

The Judgment Day gives Finn Balor a pep talk but Balor wants to know where they were at Saturday Night's Main Event. They praise him instead and things seem cool...but Balor sneers as some of the team leaves.

Seth Rollins yells at Adam Pearce to make the match with CM Punk as soon as possible. That sends Pearce away, with Drew McIntyre popping in to say that Rollins told him to get over it. Well Roman Reigns seems to be on the way back up to the top and they need to stop this. Rollins says he already stopped Reigns and did it with Jey Uso and Sami Zayn by his side. They're his friends but the jury is still out on McIntyre. For now though, Rollins is off to do what McIntyre never could: beat Punk.

Intercontinental Title: Bron Breaker vs. Ludwig Kaiser

Breaker is defending and drives him into the corner to start for a quick overhead belly to belly. For some reason Kaiser slaps him in the face and the beating continues, with Kaiser being sent outside as we take a break. Back with Breaker hammering away in the corner, with the fans being rather

behind him. Kaiser starts to go after the arm to limited avail but a ram into the corner works a bit better.

Breaker sends him outside though and the apron clothesline over the announcers' table rocks Kaiser again. They get back in and Kaiser goes after the arm again, allowing him to stomp away on the mat. The arm is wrapped around the rope for a running dropkick in the corner and we take another break.

Back again with Kaiser going after the arm again to cut off a comeback bid. The armbar goes on again but Breaker is up with a jumping knee for a breather. The top rope Frankensteiner gives Breaker two but the spear is countered into the Kaiser Roll for two more. Kaiser sends him outside to try Breaker's running dropkick, only for Breaker to cut him off with a running shoulder. Back in and a gutbuster into the super spear retains the title at 18:15.

Rating: B-. Nice match here, with Kaiser working on the arm to slow Breaker down but Breaker was just too much to overcome. The idea of Breaker just muscling through everyone is a good way to go, but he is starting to put a bit more together to make himself more well rounded. It helps when the fans are getting into him, as that could be the sign of Breaker moving up the card in a hurry, likely on the good side.

Rey Mysterio doesn't want New Day in the locker room, saying they crossed the line. It would be better for them if they found another place to change, but they don't want to be in that locker room anyway.

We look at Cody Rhodes retaining over Kevin Owens at Saturday Night's Main Event but Owens laid him out with a package piledriver after the show. Rhodes has a cervical injury but it's not clear how long he'll be out.

The War Raiders talk about how they're back after their injuries and they're ready to get the titles.

Adam Pearce announces CM Punk vs. Seth Rollins for the Raw debut on Netflix.

Here are Dominik Mysterio, Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez for a chat. The fans boo a lot but Rodriguez has brought a bullhorn so Morgan can brag about how great she has been as champion. Morgan is ready to lead WWE into the future but here is Rhea Ripley to interrupt. This has gone on long enough and it's time to finish it for good. Ripley is officially the #1 contender and she is ready to get the title back. Then Morgan will only have her little "chicken tender sl*t." That's a great insult.

Seth Rollins is being asked about his match with CM Punk when Drew McIntyre comes storming up from behind. Before McIntyre can get to him though, Sami Zayn jumps McIntyre and the fight has to be broken up.

Miz tries to get away from the Final Testament but Karrion Cross does not accept that. This whole thing with the Wyatt Sicks isn't over because it is time to take the first step against them. That's why Miz is going to fight Dexter Lumis one on one next week. Paul Ellering says Miz has saved him twice so Miz owes the team. Cross reminds Miz that he is a 22 time champion so he can do this. With Miz gone, Cross says Miz is going to have to learn what happens if you make a deal with the devil.

Women's Intercontinental Title Tournament First Round: Zoey Stark vs. Kayden Carter vs. Raquel Rodriguez

Rodriguez throws them around to start and gets an early two on Carter. Stark breaks it up and sends Carter outside, followed by a DDT to Rodriguez. Back in and Carter sends Rodriguez outside, leaving Stark to hit a basement superkick for two. With the other two outside, Carter hits a quick corkscrew dive through the ropes and we take a break.

Back with Carter tying up Rodriguez's legs and hitting a

fisherman's neckbreaker on Stark at the same time. That's broken up and Stark hits a dive out to the floor, only to get powered over the top by Rodriguez. Carter's springboard basement dropkick gets two on Rodriguez, who is back up with a fall away slam to Stark. The twisting Vader Bomb hits Carter but Stark is back in to break up the Tejana Bomb. A not exactly smooth Z360 finishes Carter to advance Stark at 9:20.

Rating: C+. They were trying here, with Stark being a bit of a surprise winner, but there were a few not so great spots in there. Rodriguez felt like the more logical choice for the winner here but going with Stark shakes things up a bit. Carter doesn't get to do this on her own very much and she worked fairly well here.

R-Truth is talking to the Alpha Academy and refers to Pete Dunne as Butch again. Cue Dunne to yell at R-Truth but American Made comes in to mock what the Alpha Academy has become. Chad Gable is sick of the entire team and it's time to finish them off, starting with Akira Tozawa.

We see a weird red symbol with a slash going through it. The circle was round. Like a zero. Like Penta El Zero Miedo perhaps?

New Day has their bags ready to go but the Pure Fusion Collective has crushed Kairi Sane's arm in an anvil case. Damage CTRL runs in for the save.

Tag Team Titles: War Raiders vs. Judgment Day

Judgment Day is defending. McDonagh kicks away at Ivar to start and gets knocked outside without much effort. Erik comes in to slam Ivar onto McDonagh and we take an early break. Back with McDonagh still in trouble but Ivar gets taken into the corner. That's broken up in short order and Erik comes in to start cleaning house.

Erik drops McDonagh with a forearm and sends him outside but

Balor cuts off a dive. The champs send Erik into the steps and then do it again as we take another break. Back again with Erik still in trouble but he's able to get over for the tag to Ivar without much trouble. Ivar takes too long to go up though and gets crotched by Balor. McDonagh tries to pull Ivar down but gets caught with a super World's Strongest Slam for two.

Balor breaks up the War Machine and McDonagh gives Erik the headbutt. There's the Sling Blade to Erik as well with the moonsault into the Coup de Grace connecting. Ivar makes the save so McDonagh brings in a chair. That's a distraction so Balor can grab one of his own....but Damian Priest grabs it as well. The War Machine gives us new champions at 16:10.

Rating: B. This was the feel good moment that the show needed and I was wanting to see the Raiders pull it off. Commentary was making a big point out of the idea that the Judgment Day were rather horrible champions who never defended the belts. Ivar getting the win as the hometown star was a good choice and the match worked rather well. Nice job here, with the title change that needed to happen.

Overall Rating: B. This was a show without a ton of matches but the two title matches combined for almost thirty five minutes and the title change felt like a big moment. The other important part was adding the Punk vs. Rollins match to the Netflix premiere, as the show is instantly feeling bigger. The two hour run time worked well here, as the show never felt like it was dragging in the slightest. That's nice to see for any show and it made for a nice week here, with the title change feeling rather nice. Good show here, with the big one coming in just a few weeks.

Results

Bron Breaker b. Ludwig Kaiser – Super Spear

Zoey Stark b. Kayden Carter and Raquel Rodriguez – Z360 to Carter

War Raiders b. Judgment Day – War Machine to Balor

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[NXT – November 13, 2014 \(2024 Edition\)](#)

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[Rampage – December 13, 2024](#)

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Leave The Memories Alone? Logan Paul Announces Retirement From WWE.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: Details On WWE's Plans For Goldberg's Return In 2025.

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Classic Meets Modern? Details On WWE Bringing Back Some Classic Title Designs.

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Flashbacks: WWE Reportedly Books Multiple Legends For Saturday Night's Main Event.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: Major Return Possible For WWE Saturday Night's Main Event.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: Current Plans For Inaugural WWE Women's US Champion (Possible SPOILER).

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Almost There: Jim Ross Provides Updates On Health, AEW Contract.

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They Should Be: WWE Reportedly Excited Over Upcoming Event.

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Double Threat: An AEW Star Is Now An Emmy Award Nominated Actor.

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One Out Of Two: WWE Reveals Plans For Women's Tag Team Titles Following Jade Cargill's Attack.

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Back At It: Surprise Return Takes Place At WWE Saturday Night's Main Event.

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#1 In The Books: Inaugural WWE Women's United States Champion Crowned At Saturday Night's Main Event.

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VIDEO: Kevin Owens Attacks Cody Rhodes, Triple H Gets Physical After WWE Saturday Night's Main Event.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: CM Punk Planned For Major Match On Upcoming WWE Show.

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Ouch: WWE Provides Medical Update On Cody Rhodes Following Brutal Attack.

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Good Reason: Here Is Why A WWE Legend Did Not Appear At Saturday Night's Main Event As Planned.

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They Had A Reason: Here Is Why Kevin Owens Attacked Cody Rhodes (It Might Surprise You).

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Not Quite: Injury Update On Liv Morgan Following Scare At WWE Saturday Night's Main Event.

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The Long Way? Speculation Over How Tessa Blanchard Might Eventually Make It To WWE.

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Rampage – December 13, 2024: Not Even One?

Rampage

Date: December 13, 2024

Location: T-Mobile Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Excalibur, Matt Menard, Tony Schiavone

We're just over two weeks away from Worlds End and that means it is time to firm up the card a bit more. Oddly enough we don't have any Continental Classic matches scheduled for this week, as instead we are getting a Final Battle preview with Matt Cardona facing Bryan Keith. Also, Toni Storm is back, as she is returning to the ring on Rampage for some reason. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Matt Cardona vs. Bryan Keith

Chris Jericho is on commentary. Cardona knocks him to the apron to start and then grabs a headlock to put Keith down. A corner clothesline sends Keith outside with Cardona hitting a dive. Keith manages to send him into the steps for a needed breather, followed by a neck crank back inside.

Cardona fights up and is quickly kicked in the head for his efforts. We take a break and come back with Cardona pulling him off the buckle, setting up a quick faceplant. The running boot in the corner gives Cardona two but Keith is back with a Rock Bottom for two of his own. Back up and a quick Radio Silence finishes for Cardona at 10:56.

Rating: C. Nothing much to see here as this was about giving Cardona a win. You know, because he didn't have one around

here in a long time before he is getting a title shot on pay per view in a week. That's what you have to do to build up the title match, but it was just a generic Cardona match, which isn't making me want to see Final Battle.

Toni Storm vs. Harley Cameron

Storm is no longer Timeless. They trade headlocks to start and Storm nails a running big boot to take Cameron down. Some right hands in the corner have Cameron in trouble as Excalibur ignores the match to run down the card for other shows. We take a break and come back with Storm fighting out of a chinlock and hitting some running shoulders. That means it's time to ignore the match again to talk about upcoming shows but Storm's chokebomb brings Excalibur back to paying attention. Storm Zero finishes Cameron at 7:28.

Rating: C+. So not only is Storm back in pretty much a nothing match on the least important of the weekly shows, but almost half of the match was spent on a commercial and a good chunk of the commentary was focusing on other things. This wasn't exactly a big showcase for Storm, which is annoying given how big of a deal her return was on Dynamite. I could go for more of these two, but Cameron is likely going to be kept in comedy bits, which might not be a bad idea.

Previous for Brody King vs. Komander in the Continental Classic next week.

Deonna Purrazzo vs. Shazza McKenzie

McKenzie grabs a rollup to start and hits a knee to the face but takes too time going up. Purrazzo pulls her into the Tree of Woe for a running shoulder to the ribs. A powerbomb into a Fujiwara armbar finishes McKenzie at 1:25.

Kris Statlander is ready to move forward after her match with Mercedes Mone. She's still coming for the title.

Here is the Don Callis Family, with Callis yelling about how they're in the getting over and making money business. Callis brags about Kyle Fletcher taking out Will Ospreay and then Kazuchika Okada. And that's that.

Don Callis Family vs. Powerhouse Hobbs/Mark Davis

Callis is on commentary as Archer and Hobbs slug it out to start. Some running clotheslines in the corner have Archer in trouble before a double shoulder takes him down. Archer gets in a running clothesline though and we take a break. Back with Davis fighting his way out of the corner but Archer cuts off the tag attempt.

Takeshita muscles Davis up for a suplex but he punches his way to freedom. Hobbs comes in to clean house, only to get dropped by the running knee. Everything breaks down and the Tower Of Doom leaves everyone down. Hobbs takes the straps down but gets kicked in the face, setting up a chokeslam to give Archer two. Hobbs drops Archer in a hurry though and hits the spinebuster for the pin at 11:58.

Rating: B-. It picked up at the end and it was nice to see Hobbs get a pin after coming back. That's what he needs to help reestablish himself after being gone for so long. Davis is still just kind of there because he was involved with Fletcher before. I'm not sure I can see that being a good long term story, but there might be a spot for Davis elsewhere on the roster.

Hobbs holds up the International Title to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. Pretty nothing show here without even as much as a Continental Classic match. That doesn't make for the most interesting show and there wasn't much of importance going on anyway. The opener set up the main event of an ROH show, Storm's match was pretty much nothing, Purrazzo won a squash, and the main event likely set up a midcard title match. That's not much of an hour, and while the show wasn't

bad, it isn't something worth the time to see.

Results

Matt Cardona b. Bryan Keith – Radio Silence

Toni Storm b. Harley Cameron – Storm Zero

Deonna Purrazzo b. Shazza McKenzie – Fujiwara armbar

Powerhouse Hobbs/Mark Davis b. Don Callis Family – Spinebuster to Archer

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Saturday Night's Main Event #37: They've Still Got It

Saturday Night's Main Event #37

Date: December 14, 2024

Location: Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, New York

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Jesse Ventura, Michael Cole, Pat

McAfee

This show is back after more than 18 years and in this case, the card might be the biggest of all time with basically a pay per view quality show. There are two World Title matches and the inaugural Women's United States Champion will be crowned. The show is also in prime time (well for a Saturday night) so this could be a big deal. Let's get to it.

After a quick opening to this year's show, we get a retro look at the show, with a bunch of clips from the 80s and 90s.

The opening video featured modern clips to classic commentary, which is quite the way to go. We even get the still shot of Cody Rhodes next to the logo.

Jesse Ventura joins Joe Tessitore (yes he has the feather boa and the snake skin jacket) and he isn't impressed with Cody Rhodes.

If that's not enough, Pat McAfee is back (as are the red, white and blue ropes).

Sami Zayn vs. Drew McIntyre

Zayn starts fast and hammers away in the corner before a clothesline sends him to the floor. The Arabian moonsault hits McIntyre and Zayn knocks him over the top again. A slingshot dive is pulled out of the air though and McIntyre tosses him over the announcers' table. We take a break and come back with McIntyre tossing him by the neck but charging into a boot in the corner.

The Helluva Kick is blocked though and a spinebuster into a sitout powerbomb gives McIntyre two. A super White Noise is countered into a sunset bomb to give Zayn two and they're both down. Back up and the Claymore is blocked with Zayn hitting the Blue Thunder Bomb for two more. The threat of a Helluva Kick sends McIntyre outside but he comes back in to catch Zayn

with the Claymore for the pin at 10:04.

Rating: B. They got going here and were having a hard hitting back and forth match, which shouldn't be a surprise given who was in there. McIntyre seems to be on a revenge quest and that should make for an interesting story. If nothing else, McIntyre might cross paths with Roman Reigns sooner than later and that could be a rather different way to go.

Tito Santana, Rich Hering (worked backstage) and Jimmy Hart are all here.

Raw Women's Title: Iyo Sky vs. Liv Morgan

Sky is challenging and flips away from her to start. A running dropkick puts Morgan down and a flapjack does it again for two. Sky sends her outside for a springboard moonsault and we take an early break. Back with Sky hitting a dive to the floor, followed by a missile dropkick for two.

Morgan is back with a Codebreaker for two of her own but Sky rolls some German suplexes for another near fall. Sky tries another springboard but slips, allowing Morgan to hit another Codebreaker for two. An enziguri staggers Morgan and Sky pulls her into a knee to the face for two more. Over The Moonsault hits raised knees though and Oblivion retains the title at 9:09.

Rating: C+. This could have been worse as they started to slip a bit near the middle but got it together well enough. It's a bit weird to see Morgan beat Sky clean but it's not the biggest stretch in the world. For now though, good enough match here, even if it's weird to see a serious Women's Title match on this show.

Post match Morgan (with a rather banged up nose) is cut off by Rhea Ripley for a big staredown.

Raw World Title: Gunther vs. Finn Balor vs. Damian Priest

Gunther is defending. They start fast with Gunther going after Balor and then headbutting Priest. Balor rolls Gunther up to block a powerbomb attempt but gets punched out to the floor. Priest elbows Gunther out to the apron and then to the floor, with a big flip dive just barely clearing the ropes (Priest banged into them a bit) as we take an early break.

Back with Gunther booting both of them down and looking rather fired up. Priest is back up with chops and running elbows in the corner as McAfee randomly congratulates the Heisman Trophy winner, with Cole having to point out that people are talking about Saturday Night's Main Event. Something close to Old School hits Gunther and Priest's lifting Downward Spiral gets two on Balor. Priest knocks Balor outside but gets choked by Gunther, only to power out.

The South Of Heaven connects but Balor is in with the standing reverse DDT. Balor dropkicks Priest into the corner, only for Gunther to break up the Coup de Grace. A Razor's Edge out of the corner hits Gunther and the Coup de Grace makes it worse, with Priest having to make the save. Gunther rolls outside and Priest hits South Of Heaven, with Gunther making a save with a grab of the hair. The sleeper has Priest in trouble on the floor and a powerbomb onto the steps drops him again. Back in and Gunther dropkicks Balor into the powerbomb to retain at 11:18.

Rating: B. This got rolling by the end and Gunther gets a nice win to look like the monster that he can be. The last few seconds with Gunther powering Priest down and running over Balor made him look that much better. Heck of a fight here and Gunther is looking like his old self, which is nice to see.

Jesse Ventura is impressed with Liv Morgan.

Women's US Title: Chelsea Green vs. Michin

For the inaugural title and Green has little pictures of herself attached to her gear (which has the half tights/half

trunks for an old Zack Ryder look. Michin gets sent to the floor to start but cuts off a charge with a slap. Niven offers a distraction though and Green takes over again as we take a break.

Back with Michin hitting a tornado DDT for two but Green sends her outside. The big dive only hits Niven though, allowing Michin to flip dive off the apron. Eat Defeat drops Niven on the floor but Green kicks her in the face. Another Eat Defeat gives Michin two, with Green getting a boot on the rope. Back up and Niven offers a distraction, allowing Green to flip onto Michin for the Unprettier for the pin and the title at 8:08.

Rating: C. There were some rough parts in there (the Eat Defeat to Green didn't work at all) but that was a monster reaction to Green finally winning a singles title. She has put in the work and gotten the fans behind her, which is quite the sign of respect. I'm not sure how Green is going to do as champion, but she got the important win here and she earned the spot.

Greg Valentine and Koko B. Ware are both here.

Jesse Ventura joins commentary and says that his snake skin used to be Damien.

We recap Kevin Owens challenging Cody Rhodes for the WWE Title. Owens spent four years fighting the Bloodline but then Rhodes teamed with them. That doesn't work with Owens, who thinks Rhodes turned his back on him. Now Owens has hurt Randy Orton and wants to do the same to Rhodes.

Smackdown World Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Kevin Owens

Rhodes is defending and has a bad ankle coming in. Owens drops to the floor to start as is his custom but Rhodes is right there after him. Back in and Rhodes sends him to the floor but comes up favoring his ankle, which has Ventura wondering how bright of an idea that really was. Owens is back up to knock

him down and drops Rhodes onto the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Owens hitting a Swanton for two (Jesse: "GET ON THE LEG!") but Rhodes snaps off the powerslam.

Rhodes stops to pose, with Jesse saying "feed off of them all you want, win the d*** match", because he's really good at commentary. The Disaster Kick gets two and they go outside, where Owens gets caught with an RKO onto the announcers' table. Back in and the Cody Cutter gets two on Owens but Rhodes takes him up, only to get caught with the swinging superplex for two. And yes, Ventura thinks there was a slow count, as is tradition.

Back up and the referee gets bumped so Owens's Stunner doesn't get a count. Ventura is losing it on commentary over the lack of a referee as another comes down to count two. Another Cody Cutter hits the second referee So Owens grabs a chair, only to get caught with the Cody Cutter. Cross Rhodes onto the chair gets the three (with the original referee counting from the floor) to retain at 12:03.

Rating: B. This was a good main event to close the show and while there was only a sliver of a reason to believe that Owens was going to win the title, they did some nice stuff with the ref bumps to make you wonder where it was going. That being said, Ventura absolutely stole the show here and I can't imagine people were expecting him to be THAT good. He's a great example of someone who just gets wrestling (telling Cody to try and win the match is a perfectly logical point) and he was a lot more than just a special nostalgia act. Anyway, nice main event here, feeling like a solid house show finale.

Jesse says the pleasure was all his in a classy move to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. For a free special on network television, this couldn't have gone much better. Even the worst match was watchable enough, but above all else, the show was fun.

Everyone seemed fired up to be there and I can see this being a nice regular quarterly feature. It doesn't need to be something they do more often than that and odds are the novelty will wear off, but dang this was a heck of a way to start with a pay per view level card. Nice job here, and Ventura managed to steal the show.

Results

Drew McIntyre b. Sami Zayn – Claymore

Liv Morgan b. Iyo Sky – Oblivion

Gunther b. Damian Priest and Finn Balor – Powerbomb to Balor

Chelsea Green b. Michin – Unprettier

Cody Rhodes b. Kevin Owens – Cross Rhodes onto a chair

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Smackdown – December 13,

2024: It Gets Us Where We Need To Go

Smackdown

Date: December 13, 2024

Location: XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut

Commentators: Corey Graves, Michael Cole

We're a day away from Saturday Night's Main Event and that should make for an important night on the way there. One of the biggest stories coming out of last week was DIY winning the Tag Team Titles with Johnny Gargano going full on villain. Other than that, the Bloodline is still lurking around so let's get to it.

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

Here is a limping Jimmy Uso (thanks to a broken toe at Survivor Series) for a chat. Uso said WarGames didn't get him but it did get his toe. WarGames meant everything to him because even though he fights with his family, they'll fight together and throw up the one's. So that's behind them, so what is in front of them?

He and his family have been doing this for years and they have been pretty successful. He's even proud of Jey Uso and the YEET! Then there's Solo Sikoa, who he might not like but he's proud of him. So what's next for Jimmy? He's not sure. Maybe the Royal Rumble, the US Title or even the WWE Title. He may have one big toe, but he's here...and so is Drew McIntyre with the Claymore.

A Christmas themed Tiffany Stratton is warming up when Candice LeRae and Nia Jax come in to give her a pep talk.

Nick Aldis yells at Drew McIntyre when Bianca Belair and Naomi come in. Aldis tells McIntyre to stay in his office and then

tells Belair she is going to have to relinquish the Tag Team Titles. Naomi offers to step in and be her partner, with Aldis reluctantly agreeing, saying they have to be ready to defend the titles as soon as next week.

Women's US Title Tournament Semifinals: Tiffany Stratton vs. Michin

Stratton knocks her down to start but Michin grabs a double leg and hammers away. A hurricanrana out of the corner drops Stratton again but Stratton faceplants her on the apron. We take a break and come back with Michin rolling away before the Prettiest Moonsault Ever can launch.

Michin kicks her down and hits a springboard DDT for two. The Tarantula has Stratton in trouble but she flips away and grabs an Alabama Slam for two of her own. A Regal Roll sets up the Prettiest Moonsault Ever but Michin rolls away...and right into the moonsault, which doesn't count as she rolled away. Eat Defeat gives Michin the fast pin at 8:22.

Rating: C+. The ending didn't help things and commentary tried to cover it as well as they could but it looked pretty bad. Other than that, Michin beating Stratton is almost weird to see, as Stratton has been pushed fairly strong in recent months while Michin has only been building momentum in recent weeks. Michin should make for a good underdog in the finals though and that's always a nice role to have filled.

We look back at Johnny Gargano going evil to win the Tag Team Titles last week.

DIY (in black and white) talk about getting cheated in Gargano's hometown but he promised to do whatever it took to set things right. Then the Motor City Machine Guns were handed a path to the titles so last week, Gargano did what he needed to do to get the titles back. And it was fun.

We look at the Bloodline beating down LA Knight and Andrade

last week.

Roman Reigns, with Paul Heyman, talks about how this has been a rough year. They were running everything not too long ago but then they lost everything. Four years ago, Solo Sikoa wasn't here when Reigns earned everything. That's why he wants Tribal Combat on January 6, where he can take everything back and everyone can acknowledge him.

There will be a Raw On Netflix Kickoff Show next week. Of note: Logan Paul is advertised despite saying he was retired earlier this week.

Legado del Fantasma complains to Nick Aldis about everyone being attacked so maybe they should go to Raw. Aldis says go call them so Carmelo Hayes comes in, where he is told he'll find out who he is facing in the ring.

Carmelo Hayes vs. ???

And the newest member of Smackdown is...Braun Strowman. Hayes panics and gets knocked down to make it even worse. The running powerslam is broken up and Hayes misses a charge into the post, allowing Hayes to get one, with the kickout sending him flying. Now the running powerslam can finish for Strowman at 1:28.

LA Knight is always ready to handle his business he didn't want to get involved in WarGames when he was asked. That wasn't his business, but now Solo Sikoa has gotten in his business and in the way of his US Title. That's why tonight, Sikoa's face is going to get in the way of Knight's fist.

Solo Sikoa vs. LA Knight

The Bloodline is here with Sikoa. Knight wins a slugout to start and hits a discus lariat, followed by a running clothesline to the floor. Sikoa is back up with some rams into various things but Knight manages a whip into the steps.

Knight hammers away on the announcers' table but Sikoa Samoan drops him back inside.

A middle rope bulldog gets Knight out of trouble and his dropkick through the ropes hits Tonga, allowing Sikoa to hit Swinging Solo onto the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Sikoa trying a Superman Punch and getting suplexed down for his efforts. Knight stomps away in the corner but stops to dive onto the rest of the Bloodline. Back in and a Side Effect drops Sikoa and the top rope elbow gets two. That's enough for Jacob Fatu, who grabs Knight for the DQ at 11:20.

Rating: B-. It was hard to imagine Sikoa being challenged to Tribal Combat next month and losing here, but at least Knight didn't get pinned. It's fine to fight against the top heel stable and get taken out by the numbers game so this could have been a lot worse for Knight. He might even get a tag match or something to follow this up so it's a bit of an upgrade for him, at least for the time being.

Post match the beatdown is on, with Apollo Crews and Andrade's save attempts not working.

Braun Strowman runs into Pretty Deadly, who offer him a spot in their musical (oh yeah that's a thing). With Pretty Deadly running off, A-Town Down Under come in and offer him a guest spot on the Grayson Waller Effect. Sure.

Women's US Title Tournament Semifinals: Bayley vs. Chelsea Green

Piper Niven is here with Green. Bayley plants her down to start in a hurry and a rollup gets an early two. Green's rollup gets her own near fall but Bayley is back with a basement clothesline for two more. Niven sweeps the leg though and Green stomps on Bayley's back as we take a break. Back with Green hitting an enziguri and rolling Bayley up for two. We hit the chinlock and go split screen for a quick preview of

the Mufasa movie.

Back to full screen and they go to the apron (nice timing on the chinlock for the break) where Bayley hits a Stunner over the middle rope. A hanging suplex to the floor has Green in more trouble, followed by a belly to back for two. Bayley hits a running knee into a sunset bomb into the corner for two but Green (who has lost the flowers in her hair, meaning she can't go to San Francisco) is back with a Rough Ryder. Niven pulls Green outside so Bayley dives onto her instead. That earns her a toss over the barricade, followed by the Unprettier to give Green the win at 12;12.

Rating: C. This was good enough but points for pushing Green forward. I'm not sure if she is going to win the title but it's nice to see her getting a chance to do something. She has more than earned the chance to do something on her own (or with Niven behind her) and it's not like Bayley is going to be hurt by losing to anyone.

The Motor City Machine Guns are not happy with DIY because they can't believe what Johnny Gargano did to them. Now it's a fight and Gargano will learn that next week.

Shinsuke Nakamura talks about how there has been a shift which will see the weak dragged into the light. LA Knight had something he never deserved and will never get it again. Nakamura is imminent.

Nia Jax consoles Tiffany Stratton but Candice LeRae comes in and says she and Nia have a Women's Tag Team Title shot next week. With Jax gone, LeRae says Stratton just might not be a singles wrestler.

Saturday Night's Main Event rundown.

Michael Cole brings out Cody Rhodes for a chat with...Kevin Owens, who joins us from his car. Owens can't believe how Rhodes is willing to use his friends to finish his story. The

reality is Rhodes is as bad of a friend as he is a son and brother. The other reality is that Rhodes was always more interesting as Stardust.

Rhodes knows Owens has more zingers up his sleeve but goes to the back to deal with him in person. Owens jumps him from behind and they fight into the arena and into the ring. Security tries to break it up and Owens gets in a belt shot to end the show. Of note: Owens was wearing a Stardust shirt, as that man's shirt closet must be amazing. Good brawl here, and it feels like a pay per view main event, which is quite the impressive feat for a television special.

Overall Rating: B-. The best thing I can say about this show is I want to see what happens tomorrow night. This show was designed to make Saturday Night's Main Event more interesting and it pulled that part off. The action itself here wasn't great, but it was good enough to move things forward. This show wasn't the one that mattered, but rather the show that set up the ones that matter. Nice job on that front, with tomorrow being the important night.

Results

Michin b. Tiffany Stratton – Eat Defeat

Braun Strowman b. Carmelo Hayes – Running powerslam

LA Knight b. Solo Sikoa via DQ when Jacob Fatu interfered

Chelsea Green b. Bayley – Unprettier

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Collision – December 7, 2024: Just One

Collision

Date: December 7, 2024

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Tony Schiavone

As has been the case for the last few shows, we're in for a big focus on the Continental Classic. That should be enough to carry a lot of the show, but we are also three weeks away from Worlds End and that show is going to need some build of its own. Odds are we get some of that here so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Continental Classic.

Continental Classic Gold League: Darby Allin (0 points) vs. Komander (0 points)

Komander armdrags him out of the corner to start but gets reversed into a headlock. A rollup gives Allin two and he slows things down with a chinlock. Komander gets up and walks the ropes before springboarding off of them, only for his armdrag to be blocked. Allin gets sent to the floor though and a big dive takes him down. Back in and a phoenix splash gives Komander two, setting up a nice superkick to the floor. Allin fights back and puts him in a chair, only for the running flip dive to only hit said chair.

We take a break and come back with Allin hitting a Code Red for two and they're both down. Allin goes up but gets super Spanish Flie back down. With the high flying not working, Allin goes with a more violent back rake instead, setting up a Coffin Drop with Komander draped over the top. Komander is right back with a poisonrana on the apron but Cielito Lindo takes too long. That's enough for Allin to tie up the legs for a rollup and the pin at 13:11.

Rating: B-. Well, they have to get Allin on the board and who better than Komander to take the loss? At the end of the day, Komander is mainly there to make others look good and he is doing a nice job of doing so. Allin needs to make a run in this thing, as once it's over, there is a good chance he is getting into the World Title picture again.

Gold League Standings

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Will Ospreay – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Don Callis and Konosuke Takeshita are interrupted by Powerhouse Hobbs. He gets straight to the point by saying he wants an International Title match. Callis says Hobbs deserves a shot but he'll get back to him later.

International Women's Cup Qualifier Tournament Semifinals: Willow Nightingale vs. Serena Deeb

Deeb goes after the arm to start and takes her down, only to get run over with a shoulder. They trade rollups for two each until Nightingale gets a fisherman's suplex for two. Deeb sends her outside in a heap though and we take a break. Back with Nightingale hitting some clotheslines but the Babe With The Powerbomb is blocked. A hammerlock lariat gives Deeb two

but the Deebtox is blocked as well. Nightingale misses a Cannonball and the Deebtox connects to give two. That just earns Deeb the Pounce and the Babe With The Powerbomb finishes for Nightingale at 10:04.

Rating: C+. I still have no idea why this needs to be a tournament but at least they're getting to the point fairly quickly. Nightingale getting a win here could help send her on to Japan but Jamie Hayter is a tough out in the finals. For now though, nice match, as Deeb can make anyone look good out there and it's not like Nightingale needs that much help.

Thunder Rosa wants the next Women's Title match and reads some insults about Mariah May off a piece of paper.

We look at Jay White, Orange Cassidy and Hangman Page beating up Jon Moxley with Christian Cage hovering around.

Here are the Death Riders for a chat. Jon Moxley talks about how no one in this building wants to be AEW World Champion. Some people might think they do, but the responsibilities would crush them. People like Jay White wants to be champion but doesn't get what it takes. Hangman Page will crush himself before he gets close to another title reign.

Then we have Orange Cassidy, who has already come up short. Cue Cassidy to say he can live without ever being champion but he can't live with Moxley being champion. The only way Moxley can stop him is to kill him and Cassidy takes his jacket off. The beatdown is quickly on and Cassidy is carried to the back as we take a break. Well at least they only beat up one person this week.

FTR talks about how they're going to fight for hurricane relief in Asheville, North Carolina...but we cut over to the Death Riders attempting to spray some kind of cleaning fluid in Orange Cassidy's mouth. FTR makes the save but things don't get violent. FTR getting involved in this is at least something fresh so I can go for this.

Continental Classic Blue League: Kyle Fletcher (6 points) vs. Kazuchika Okada (4 points)

Non-title. Fletcher works on the arm to start and snapmares him into a chinlock. The fans aren't pleased, as we are somehow seeing Okada as the crowd favorite. Fletcher grinds away on a headlock, with McGuinness saying he's won a bunch of matches with a headlock. McGuinness: "One guy gave up during the instructions." Eh funnier when Bobby Heenan said it thirty five years ago.

Okada fights up and they head to the floor for a DDT to Fletcher. Back in and Fletcher hits a hanging DDT (as the Randy Orton comparisons continue) to send us to a break. We come back with Okada fighting out of a chinlock but Fletcher knees him down. Okada is back with a kick to the head and a quickly broken cobra clutch. Instead Okada settles for a flapjack and the air raid crash onto the knee.

The top rope elbow and the dropkick sends Fletcher to the floor. The Tombstone on the floor is countered into a half and half suplex, followed by a sitout powerbomb for two on Okada back inside. A non-wind up Rainmaker connects but the regular version is cut off by a superkick. The referee almost gets bumped in the corner and it's a low blow into the brainbuster to give Fletcher the win at 16:58.

Rating: B. The ending might seem a bit lame but you don't want Okada to lose a clean fall. At the same time, like him or not, they are trying with Fletcher and that is a good thing. AEW needs some fresh stars and if they think Fletcher can be the guy, points for trying to push him as such. The best way to make that happen is with a string of wins and he's certainly putting those together.

Blue League Standings

Kyle Fletcher – 9 points (2 matches remaining)

Daniel Garcia – 4 points (3 matches remaining)

Kazuchika Okada – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Shelton Benjamin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)
Mark Briscoe – 0 points (3 matches remaining)
The Beast Mortos – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

There will be a special on-sale event for All In Texas this Monday.

Winter Is Coming is coming.

The Beast Mortos vs. Aaron Solo

Mortos jumps him, shrugs off a kick to the head, hits a powerbomb backbreaker and finishes with a discus lariat at 58 seconds.

Top Flight, with Leila Grey, isn't happy with Lio Rush and Action Andretti in the tag team battle royal. Rush says it's time for he and Andretti to go after the Tag Team Titles because Top Flight keeps losing. It's time to settle this in the ring.

Mina Shirakawa vs. Emi Sakura

Sakura jumps her to start and hits some chops against the ropes. Shirakawa fights up and takes her down for some kicks but has to slip away. That means a bit of dancing, which only annoys Sakura. A bite to the hand has Shirakawa down and we take an early break. Back with Shirakawa fighting out of a chinlock and hitting a springboard kick to the face for two.

The Glamorous Driver is broken up so Sakura is back up with a rather delayed butterfly backbreaker as Thunder Rosa is watching from ringside. Sakura is back with a middle rope sling blade for two before diving over the referee to hit a splash. A top rope Sling Blade finishes Sakura at 9:51.

Rating: B-. That's all it should have been as Shirakawa is coming up on the Women's Title shot and needs a win to make her feel more important. That's exactly what she got here and

it was a good enough match all around. I'm not sure if she wins the title, but Toni Storm is likely going to be back soon and that is going to be a problem for Mariah May, which could cost her said title.

Video on Mariah May vs. Mina Shirakawa, complete with a history of their time in Japan and the triangle involving Toni Storm.

Mark Briscoe says he's ready to beat Daniel Garcia "tomorrow" on Collision. Garcia wants Briscoe to bring it "tomorrow".

Continental Classic Blue League: Mark Briscoe (0 points) vs. Daniel Garcia (4 points)

Non-title. Feeling out process to start with Garcia mocking red neck kung fu and grabbing a rollup for an early two. Garcia powers him into the corner and a rub to the face doesn't sit well with Briscoe. A dropkick to the floor sets up a big flip dive through the ropes to take Garcia down for a change.

Back up and Garcia's choke over the ropes sends Briscoe back to the floor, where Briscoe kicks him up against the barricade. Garcia hammers away as well and, after a dance, hits a running dropkick as we take a break. Back with Briscoe hammering away but not being able to superplex him out to the floor. They forearm it out and seem to be rather pleased, just like the crowd.

Briscoe gets the better of things and sends him to the floor for the Bang Bang Elbow. A fisherman's buster gives Briscoe two but the Froggy Bow is reversed into a top rope superplex into a piledriver. Briscoe breaks up another superplex though and hits the Froggy Bow for two of his own. With nothing else working, Briscoe busts out the Cutthroat Driver (close to a Burning Hammer) for the pin at 17:04.

Rating: B. this is the problem with having a fellow champion

in a tournament like this, as he just lost clean to Briscoe. In theory that should set Briscoe up as the #1 contender, but it might take a few weeks before we can get to that match. At the same time, Garcia probably shouldn't be losing so soon after he won the title in the first place and hopefully this doesn't damage him too much.

Blue League Standings

Kyle Fletcher – 9 points (2 matches remaining)
Daniel Garcia – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Kazuchika Okada – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Shelton Benjamin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)
Mark Briscoe – 3 points (2 matches remaining)
The Beast Mortos – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Another good week of Classic action, slightly annoying result in the main event aside. I like what they've been doing with the tournament, but at some point it's going to end and AEW needs to have something good to take up the slack. The rest of the show was ok enough, with the Death Riders stuff thankfully being limited to just one segment. As usual, AEW is at its best when the wrestling carries things and that was the case again here.

Results

Darby Allin b. Komander – Rollup
Willow Nightingale b. Serena Deeb – The Babe With The Powerbomb
Kyle Fletcher b. Kazuchika Okada – Brainbuster
The Beast Mortos b. Aaron Solo – Discus lariat
Mina Shirakawa b. Emi Sakura – Top rope Sling Blade
Mark Briscoe b. Daniel Garcia – Cutthroat Driver

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NXT – November 13, 2014 (2024 Edition): What A Flashback/Forward

NXT

Date: November 13, 2014

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Jason Albert, Alex Riley, Rich Brennan

So the WWE Vault randomly added this and since I haven't looked at this show since it aired, it's time to go back to go back to one of the best periods NXT ever had. We are coming up on Takeover: R-Evolution and Sami Zayn is chasing Adrian Neville and the NXT Title. Other than that, Hideo Itami needs some help dealing with the Ascension and has a new friend who debuted last week to help him out. That friend: Finn Balor. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Ascension attacking Hideo Itami,

who brought in Finn Balor to even the score. The Ascension was quickly dispatched.

Opening sequence, featuring The Roar Of The Crowd (or whatever it's called) and various stars with their names included. Dang I had forgotten how much fun this show was back in the day.

Here is Finn Balor, with the theme song but not the timed poses yet, which is quite bizarre after so many years of the same thing. He's here because he is the future but here are Tyson Kidd and Natalya to interrupt. Kidd says no one cares but gets drowned out by a NATTIE'S HUSBAND chant. The first thing the Harts are taught is respect but here is Justin Gabriel to interrupt. He's not impressed with Balor either and the brawl is teased but Hideo (Kenta) Itami comes in to even things out. A referee, as sent out by William Regal, says we're having a tag team match (insert English word for "playa" here).

Finn Balor/Hideo Itami vs. Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel

Natalya is here with Kidd and Gabriel. Itami works on Kidd's arm to start and it's quickly off to Balor to dropkick Gabriel. The villains head outside and Balor hits the big flip dive as we take an early break. Back with Itami hammering on Gabriel and grabbing a chinlock to keep him down. Balor comes in for a chop but gets distracted by Kidd, allowing Gabriel to get in a dropkick.

Back in and some double kicks have Balor down for two but the chinlock doesn't last long. Balor Pele's his way out of trouble and hands it off to Itami for the harder kicks. Kidd gets a boot up in the corner to cut him off but Balor comes in for stereo basement dropkicks in the corner. The top rope double stomp gives Balor the pin on Gabriel at 10:34.

Rating: C+. Nice start for Balor here as he looked like a killer with some of the strikes, especially the yet to be named Coup de Grace. Bringing him in with someone like Itami

is a good way to go and he got to smash some midcarders here. That's about all you could hope for here and it was a good start, with Balor coming off like a star.

We look back at Sami Zayn vs. Adrian Neville (eventually known as Pac in AEW) in a #1 contenders match about a year ago, with Neville winning a good match.

Zayn says this feels different and his road to redemption continues. Destiny never makes mistakes and tonight will unfold like it's supposed to.

Sasha Banks vs. Alexa Bliss

Banks' new friend Becky Lynch is here with her while Bliss is still all about sparkling and blows glitter. The weirder thing is hearing them called Divas though, which feels like such an absolute relic of the past. Banks takes her into the corner for the double knees to the ribs to start as Bliss is compared to a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader. A surfboard has Bliss in more trouble but she flips out and fires off forearms. Bliss' sunset flip out of the corner gets two but Banks pulls her into the Bank Statement for the fast tap at 2:12. This was pretty much a squash and my goodness that's weird to see given what Bliss would become.

Post match Banks calls out Charlotte, saying she has what Banks wants, meaning the Women's Title. The challenge for the title match is on (again).

NXT Champion Adrian Neville knows Sami Zayn is going to bring everything he has but the reality is Zayn can't win the big one.

Lucha Dragons vs. Wesley Blake/Buddy Murphy

The Dragons' Tag Team Titles aren't on the line. Blake powers Kalisto down to start and hands it off to Murphy, who pulls a springboard crossbody out of the air. Blake's knee drop gets

two and we hit the seated armbar. Kalisto fights up and grabs a sunset flip before rolling over into a kick to the head. That's enough for the tag off to Cara as the pace picks way up. Kalisto's step up flip dive to the floor takes out Murphy and Cara Swantons Blake for the pin at 5:05.

Rating: C+. I had forgotten about Blake and Murphy as a team but there were worse options out there for a pair of muscular guys with nothing else to do. On the other hand you have the Dragons, who were a good high flying team who took the titles from the monster Ascension. That doesn't make them sound like long term champions, but they're doing well with what they have.

The Vaudevillains promise to take the Tag Team Titles from the Dragons. Not quite, but they were in line.

NXT Title: Sami Zayn vs. Adrian Neville

Zayn is challenging and twists the arm to start, sending Neville bailing into the corner. Neville's headlock is countered and he misses a dropkick, allowing Zayn to dropkick him to the floor. The springboard flip back into the middle of the ring lets Zayn pose and he even holds the ropes open so Neville can get back in. Back in and Neville strikes away, with a running boot to the face sending us to a break.

We come back with Neville grabbing a chinlock before a running elbow in the corner connects for two. The chinlock goes on but Zayn fights up with some clotheslines and knocks Neville outside. The big dive connects and we hit those NXT chants. Back in and Neville blocks a high crossbody (though I'm not entirely sure how), setting up a standing shooting star press for two.

A spinning powerbomb gives Zayn two of his own and he rolls some German suplexes for another near fall. The exploder is blocked and Neville goes up, only to miss the Red Arrow. Neville comes up holding his knee and falls down before Zayn

can fire off the Helluva Kick. Zayn goes to check on him...and gets rolled up to retain Neville's title at 15:33.

Rating: B. These two worked very well together, which would be shown again during their classic at R-Evolution. This was more about Zayn screwing up at the last second though, as he was too compassionate about Neville's injury to go for the title. That's a good storytelling beat for him at the end of a rather solid TV match, with a reason to believe that Zayn could get the title if he just focuses that much more.

Neville is checked on by medics as Zayn is crushed to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Sweet goodness I had forgotten how much fun this show really was. The action is good, the stories make sense and you can see where things should be going. What made NXT special was that they didn't go in some weird direction out of nowhere and it made for a much more enjoyable show. From a flashback perspective, it is fascinating to see the next generation coming up, with Balor only having been there a week. This was a lot of fun and it's still a good show so hopefully they pop up a few more of these as it's one of the best runs any wrestling TV show ever had.

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Dynamite – December 11, 2024: It Had To Slow Down

Dynamite

Date: December 11, 2024

Location: T-Mobile Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Excalibur, Nigel McGuinness

It's Winter Is Coming and that means we should be in for a bigger than usual show. This show has had some moments over the years and if they keep the tradition going, this should make for a nice addition to the series. It's also another week in the Continental Classic so we should have some good action. Let's get to it. Death Riders vs. Jay White/Orange Cassidy

White and Cassidy jump them before the bell and the fight goes outside, with Cassidy giving a young fan a fist bump (I love that kind of thing as it makes fans for life). Cassidy gets sent into the announcers' table though and they head inside for the opening bell. The brawl heads back outside as the Patriarchy is shown watching in a sky box. Cassidy fights up and kicks Moxley in the chest, allowing the tag off to White. A pair of DDTs sends the Riders out to the floor and we take an early break.

Back with Moxley holding White in a chinlock as Christian Cage sends the Patriarchy to do something. White gets out of a chinlock but Pac kicks him in the chest to keep him in trouble. A quick knockdown gives White a breather though and it's Cassidy coming back in to slug away. Cassidy drops Moxley but gets pulled into a rear naked choke. That's broken up and Cassidy hits a spinning DDT on Moxley. White suplexes Pac and the Beach Break to Moxley gets two more. Wheeler Yuta's

distraction doesn't work so Cassidy loads up the Orange Punch...but Hangman Page runs in to jump Moxley for the DQ at 13:34.

Rating: B-. Nice match to start the show here, though the ending feels like it's designed to set up a four way match or a triple threat #1 contenders match. In theory they didn't want Cassidy or White to get an upper hand on their way to World's End, but that's still quite the disappointing ending. You can't have Yuta in there to take a fall instead of Pac?

Post match Page hammers on Moxley but Cassidy pulls him off. The two of them start fighting with White accidentally taking a shot and getting caught in the brawl. The Death Riders beat all of them down and leave.

We get another old west style vignette for the returning Bandido, this time with him riding in on a horse, with a posse waiting on him. Bandido beats all of them up without much trouble. These things have been rather cool.

Jon Moxley talks about being a marked man and that means living with a knife to your throat. He wouldn't have it any other way and now there are a bunch of people saying they want the title shot. The challenge is on for the four way title shot at Worlds End. That doesn't exactly make me want to boo him.

Christian Cage, still in the sky box, doesn't like this four way because he doesn't like anyone involved. He promises to jump anyone, including Jon Moxley, who he will send back to rehab. As Cage goes to leave, Hook breaks into the box and chokes Cage out. Cage fights out of being thrown out of a balcony. The fight is on and some glass is broken (make your own jokes) until the Patriarchy makes the save.

Continental Classic Gold League: Claudio Castagnoli (6 points) vs. Will Ospreay (3 points)

Ospreay hits him in the face for two ten seconds in and Castagnoli is sent outside for a big running flip dive. A Phenomenal Forearm looks to set up the Oscutter but Castagnoli uppercuts him out of the air. Ospreay kicks him in the face and they're both down. They go outside with Ospreay dropkicking the steps into Castagnoli's legs. Castagnoli pulls him out of the air though and swings Ospreay into the steps for a big crash. Ospreay's arm is stomped in the steps and we take a break.

Back with Ospreay grabbing a springboard hurricanrana and kicking Castagnoli in the face for a double down. Castagnoli goes to the arm to block a suplex attempt but Ospreay gets him up anyway. The standing sky twister press gets two but the Hidden Blade is blocked. The Riccola Bomb is countered into Ospreay's octopus hold, only for Castagnoli to go back to the arm.

Castagnoli gutwrench suplexes him down and catches Ospreay up top but gets knocked back down. A regular sky twister press misses so Castagnoli kicks him in the face. The slugout sets up the Oscutter but Ospreay's arm is banged up. A pop up uppercut and a big clothesline give Castagnoli two...but Ospreay rolls him up for the fluke pin at 13:28.

Rating: B. This was a lot of Ospreay fighting from underneath and that is where he often shines. Castagnoli overpowered him for most of the match but got caught in the end. It's weird to see the Death Riders lose, but how else are we going to get Will Ospreay vs. Kyle Fletcher II? That has to happen of course because Ospreay is eternally tied to the Don Callis Family and therefore it has to happen again. Good match here, which shouldn't surprise you.

Gold League Standings

Will Ospreay – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Post match Castagnoli jumps Ospreay again but Darby Allin makes the save.

Ricochet says he's here for matches like the one he has tonight against Brody King. Even though King is a monster, he's not Ricochet. He pulls out MVP's business card and says he's holding all of the cards.

MJF is back.

Matt Cardona is ready to face Chris Jericho at Final Battle but he'll face Bryan Keith at Rampage.

Kyle O'Reilly is ready to face Adam Cole but the Kingdom comes in to say they're still family. O'Reilly says they should have remembered that before one of them got hurt.

Kyle O'Reilly vs. Adam Cole

For the shot at MJF at World's End. Feeling out process to start with Cole trying an early rollup for two. The threat of a kick to the face sends him to the floor, where O'Reilly strikes away again to take over. We take a break and come back with O'Reilly striking away but missing a top rope knee drop.

Cole knees him in the face and they're both down. O'Reilly grabs a brainbuster into an ankle lock, sending Cole over to the ropes. Cole is back up with the Panama Sunrise but he takes too long to follow up and gets his ankle locked. That's broken up and Cole drops O'Reilly on the floor. Cue MJF for a distraction but Cole superkicks him down and small packages O'Reilly for the pin at 11:04.

Rating: C+. The story continues and that pre-match promo makes me wonder if the Kingdom won't be joining MJF at World's End

to screw over Cole. This feud hasn't done much for me and I'm not sure how many people have been interested in it either. It's gone on too long and there is a good chance that it is going to continue into the new year. The match wasn't exactly great either, which isn't making the bigger problem any better.

Post match the Kingdom comes out but O'Reilly leaves without shaking hands with Cole.

FTR is ready to help rebuild Asheville, North Carolina with Fight For The Fallen on January 1. They want to be in a big match and they've had some issues with the Death Riders, so come talk to them.

Chris Jericho has a New York Minute and accepts the challenge for Matt Cardona vs. Bryan Keith on Rampage. Tomorrow on Ring Of Honor, there will be a contract signing for Jericho vs. Cardona at Final Battle.

We recap the Continental Classic matches from Rampage and Collision.

Earlier today, Darby Allin talked about how he wanted to stop the Death Riders after they attacked Bryan Danielson. He is fighting for people who are here because they are getting a chance in AEW. Allin hits himself in the mouth to draw some blood and talks about how he has to win the Continental Classic to prove himself, even if there will be collateral damage along the way.

Continental Classic Gold League: Ricochet (3 points) vs. Brody King (3 points)

Ricochet begs off a bit to start and gets powered out to the floor without much trouble. A spring off the barricade lets Ricochet kick him in the face but King hits a powerbomb onto the apron. Ricochet misses a crossbody into the barricade and we take a break. Back with King winning a strike off but

getting knocked out to the floor.

Ricochet hits a springboard 450 for a short one count but King blasts him with a clothesline for two. The Ganso Bomb is broken up and Ricochet knees him in the face a few times. King knocks him into the corner for a Cannonball but Ricochet turns a superplex attempt into a sunset bomb (with the turnbuckle pad being ripped off in the process).

The shooting star press connects...and King grabs him by the throat before the cover. Ricochet has to climb out of a choke and is promptly chopped down onto the apron. Back up and Ricochet manages a DDT onto the exposed buckle and Ricochet kicks him down onto the steel again. The Spirit Gun finishes for Ricochet at 12:51.

Rating: B-. Now this has me curious because Ricochet was definitely acting more heelish for a change. He's someone who could use a change of pace because he hasn't evolved much at all in the last several years. Maybe this is the chance that he needs, but at least it seems that they are trying something new with him. Seeing King lose is annoying, but Ricochet could get a nice boost out of a fresh style.

Gold League Standings

Will Ospreay – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (2 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Lio Rush and Action Andretti interrupt Private Party. Rush and Andretti want a title shot but Top Flight come in to ask how many matches Rush and Andretti have won. Private Party suggests a #1 contenders match and it seems to be on.

Mercedes Mone and Anna Jay have a staredown but we need to

talk about Mone defending her New Japan Strong Women's Title this weekend. Mone shifts over to Jay, who is 26 years old and just getting started. That makes Mone chuckle because when she was 26, she was already a five time champion. Jay cuts her off from leaving and says that all she needs is one mistake from Mone to become champion. Yeah I'm not quite buying her chances.

We recap Mariah May defending the Women's Title against Mina Shirakawa. They were friends and partners in Japan but May has attacked her for the sake of bringing out Shirakawa's best side. Shirakawa wants things to be back to normal and now we have the title match.

Women's Title: Mariah May vs. Mina Shirakawa

Shirakawa is challenging. They slug it out to start with Shirakawa slapping her in the face to take over and kick away at the leg. A figure four sends May rolling over to the ropes but they roll outside with the hold still on. Thunder Rosa pops up in the crowd with a sign shouting about how May is NOT HER CHAMPION as May sends Shirakawa into the barricade. Shirakawa is back on the leg though and grabs a Figure Four around the post as we take a break.

Back with Shirakawa fighting out of a chinlock and starting an exchange of forearms. A hanging neckbreaker gives Shirakawa two but May kicks her in the face. May Day gets an arrogant cover for two but another May Day is broken up. The Glamorous Driver gives Shirakawa two, only for a quick Storm Zero to retain the title at 11:49

Rating: C+. The match was ok, but it showcases the bigger issue with May's title reign: the whole thing is built around waiting for Toni Storm to return. She ties into this feud and May is still using Storm's finisher. You can only get so far with that kind of specter hanging over them and that was the issue here. Not a terrible match, but it felt like something

else that had to be done before we get to the big match.

Post match Toni Storm (no longer Timeless) is back. May is stunned (Rosa has a "WTF!" sign) and Storm stares her down to end the show. Well there's the answer to the big question about May's reign and it should make for a solid rematch, thankfully with enough of a twist to keep it interesting.

Overall Rating: B-. I wasn't feeling this one as much as some previous Continental Classic shows. There was more of a focus on getting things ready for World's End and while that helped, it wasn't as engaging as some of the tournament focused events. You can see a lot of what is coming at the pay per view and it's only so interesting, but they still have time to boost that up well enough.

Results

Death Riders b. Orange Cassidy/Jay White via DQ when Hangman Page interfered

Will Ospreay b. Claudio Castagnoli – Rollup

Adam Cole b. Kyle O'Reilly – Small package

Ricochet b. Brody King – Spirit Gun

Mariah May b. Mina Shirakawa – Storm Zero

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