

Daily News Update – May 11, 2021

I love a busy day.

AEW Returning To Full Touring, Complete Details And Dates.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aew-returning-full-touring-complete-details-dates/>

Here's What To Expect From The Next NXT Takeover.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/heres-expect-next-nxt-takeover/>

BREAKING: Injury On Monday Night Raw, Match Stopped.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/breaking-injury-monday-night-raw-match-stopped/>

New Gimmick Match Announced For WrestleMania Backlash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-gimmick-match-announced-wrestlemania-backlash/>

New Day Is Coming Together For Some Special Treatment.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-day-coming-together-special-treatment/>

RUMOR: Update On Becky Lynch's WWE Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-update-becky-lynch-s-wwe-status/>

What Is Next For Mia Yim/Reckoning In WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-mia-yim-reckoning-w>

[we/](#)

WWE Management Says Match “Set The Business Back 30 Years”.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-management-says-match-set-business-back-30-years/>

As always, please click on all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and [get on the site's Facebook page.](#)

Monday Night Raw – May 10, 2021: Magic Tomatoes!

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 10, 2021

Location: Yuengling Center, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Adnan Virk, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

It's the go home show for Wrestlemania Backlash and that means it is time to push the rest of the card forward in a big way. There are currently two Raw matches set for the pay per view so in theory we are going to need some more stuff announced tonight. You can probably guess those matches from here and now we get to see how dull they can make the show that announces them. Let's get to it.

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

The opening recap looks at Bobby Lashley beating Braun Strowman and then getting Claymored by Drew McIntyre. As a result: Lashley vs. McIntyre this week.

Opening sequence.

Charlotte/Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler vs. Mandy Rose/Dana Brooke/Asuka

Jax powers Mandy into the corner to start so Baszler can choke with the boot. Baszler grabs a standing armbar and takes Rose down without much effort. Asuka comes in and dropkicks Baszler down, with Mandy and Dana dropkicking Shayna and Nia to the floor. After Reginald backflips off the apron.....here is Alexa Bliss on her swing with Lily next to her.

Bliss is here to watch someone and we take a break. Back with Charlotte holding Rose in the Figure Four necklock and then Jax coming in to power her around even more. Rose slips over and makes the hot tag off to Brooke, who gets to clean a bit of the house. Baszler backbreakers her down....and then her knee gives out. It starts shaking and Baszler kind of collapses, allowing the legal Asuka to come in with the Shining Wizard for the pin at 8:40.

Rating: D. Oh boy we could be in for a long night. So the evil doll is now using magical powers to go after Baszler's leg? Does this count as another story for Nia Jax? Anyway, this is not exactly looking like a great night and the fact that Rhea Ripley was barely mentioned here does not exactly give me hope. It was a bad match and the ending was even worse, which isn't even that much of a surprise.

Post match Charlotte drops Asuka as Alexa laughs a lot.

Riddle scooters up to New Day in the back and talks about how RKBro is in the process of registering to be an official team. That's better than AJ Styles and Omos, who aren't even a real team. Randy Orton comes up and the three of them talk about how great it was when Orton got hit with tomatoes. Orton doesn't seem to agree but finds the idea of ending careers and kicking people in the head funny. Violence is promised for later.

MVP comes in to see Braun Strowman, who tells him to get out. Strowman isn't interested in talking business but MVP says that Bobby Lashley would rather lose the WWE Title to Strowman instead of Drew McIntyre (not that he's losing of course). Tonight, if McIntyre would happen to get hurt, that would leave us with Lashley vs. Strowman on Sunday, with no McIntyre to interfere. Strowman doesn't like MVP, but seems interested.

We recap Damian Priest beating John Morrison last week thanks to some botched Miz interference. Priest vs. Miz is set for Wrestlemania Backlash.

Priest is in Adam Pearce's office when Miz and Morrison come in. Morrison seems to blame Miz for the loss last week so a deal is offered: the winner of Priest vs. Morrison tonight gets to pick the stipulation for Miz vs. Priest. Miz doesn't seem happy, but Morrison knows tonight calls for a light shower of Johnny Drip Drip.

Jinder Mahal is back with Veer and Shanky (formerly Indus Sher in NXT) and is ready to get back on the throne.

Jinder Mahal vs. Jeff Hardy

Rematch from last week's Main Event of all things and Veer and Shanky are with Mahal. Hardy gets taken down and stomped a lot to start before a suplex puts him down again. The chinlock doesn't last long as Hardy fights up and hits his spinning mule kick to escape. A middle rope ax handle connects and Jeff gets to take his shirt off but the Twist of Fate is countered into a jumping knee to the face. The Khallas finishes Hardy at 3:25.

Rating: D+. Yeah it's still Mahal. He has a good look and the eyes look crazy intense but it's the same boring person who is still one of the all time worst WWE champions. I understand why WWE insists on pushing him but throwing him out there with a pair of lackeys isn't going to be the big saving grace for his career. Mahal is technically fine, but he's so uninteresting.

Charlotte, who changed clothes in a hurry, comes in to see Sonya Deville.

Elias and Jaxson Ryker have tomatoes (yes, really) but AJ Styles and Omos come up to ask why they're doing this. Elias loads up a song but AJ says we're just going to be more serious. Omos crushes a tomato to prove his point.

RKBro/New Day vs. AJ Styles/Omos/Elias/Jaxson Ryker

Riddle tries an armbar on Elias to start but the rope break is good for

an early save. Ryker comes in and gets kicked down by Riddle, which just seems to fire Ryker up even more. Omos tags himself in so Riddle goes after him, only to be shoved down in a hurry. A kick to the ribs is flipped away so Kofi comes in, only to get headbutted down. Orton comes in to try his luck and then rolls outside in a smart move as we take a break.

Back with Riddle getting knocked into the wrong corner for a stomping. Elias elbows him down and Ryker drops an elbow for two. Riddle fights up and gets over to Kofi to pick up the pace, with Woods coming in a few seconds later. Kofi tags himself back in for a high crossbody for two on AJ and it's already back to Woods. AJ takes him down and hands it back to Ryker to hammer away in the corner. The chinlock doesn't last long but Ryker plants him with a spinebuster for two.

Elias' swinging suplex gets two and we hit the chinlock with a knee in Woods' back. Woods fights out of that just like it's a chinlock and the hot tag brings in Riddle to clean house. Omos makes a fast save and knocks Riddle out of the air with most of a right hand. Woods dropkicks AJ through the rope and New Day grabs an AJ leg each to run in a circle. Back in and Orton hits the RK0 to finish Elias at 14:08.

Rating: C-. That is pretty easily the best thing on the show and it wasn't really that good in the first place. Too much Ryker and Elias here, though Omos continues to look like a monster. Having Orton be scared of him meant more to him than anything he has done to New Day so they are doing things right with him. Not a good match, but it was an upgrade after the horrible first forty minutes or so.

Post match Orton hits the RK0 on Kofi and Woods as Riddle isn't pleased.

Rhea Ripley (hey she's on the show) comes in to Sonya Deville's office and gets in a showdown with Asuka. Tonight, they are going to have a match, which Ripley doesn't seem to like. She saw Charlotte come in here earlier and she knows what that means. Asuka says she has already had a match but she is ready for Ripley anyway. Ripley says game on.

MVP doesn't like the idea of Bobby Lashley having to beat Drew McIntyre again because it is like a sequel with a foregone conclusion. Lashley

promises to win tonight and MVP won't have any discussion over ongoing negotiations with Braun Strowman.

Sheamus vs. Humberto Carrillo

Non-title. Before the match, Sheamus talks about needing to prove his greatness with the Open Challenge, even if it means someone like Adnan Virk, who is way over his head on commentary, gets a shot. Tonight, Carrillo isn't getting a title shot but he is getting a Brogue Kick to the face. Sheamus forearms him in the back to start but Humberto gets in a kick to the face. A dropkick puts Sheamus on the floor, where he catches a baseball slide and sends Carrillo into the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Sheamus hitting the forearms to the chest and grabbing a reverse chinlock. An Alabama Slam gets two on Carrillo so Sheamus takes him up top, only to get pulled down with a super hurricanrana. A sunset bomb to the floor connects, even though Sheamus lands on Carrillo's knee. It's actually too much and the referee calls it off at 9:10...with Sheamus winning, despite being down too.

Rating: C-. The ending really took away from this one but all that matters is if Carrillo is ok. That was a nasty landing and you could tell that something was wrong in a hurry. Hopefully everything is ok, as I'm not sure where things are going to go otherwise. Assuming Carrillo can do it, I could see this one getting a rematch on Sunday, though I'm curious to see where Mansoor fits into this, assuming he does.

Video on Lucha House Party. They're Lucha Lit.

Eva Marie wants to prove herself so she is back where it all began. Coming soon.

Shelton Benjamin vs. Cedric Alexander

Cedric flips around to start but the threat of Paydirt sends him outside. Shelton takes him back inside where he gets caught with a dragon screw legwhip, meaning Cedric can start in on the knee. Benjamin manages to reverse into a modified Sharpshooter so Cedric goes straight to the rope. With Shelton being knocked to the floor, Cedric loads up a dive but runs

into a jumping knee to the face. Back in and Paydirt is countered into a rollup, followed by the Neuralizer to drop Benjamin. Cedric takes WAY too long trash talking though and walks into the exploder suplex for the pin at 4:22.

Rating: C. The ending was a bit of a surprise, but then again I've long since given up on believing the idea that Alexander is ever going to get a push on his own. I'm not sure what WWE doesn't see in him, if nothing else as a good hand in the ring. Shelton isn't likely to get a push either, but at least the match told a story. A short story, but a story nonetheless.

We recap Angel Garza kicking a rose, uh, up Drew Gulak.

Gulak interrupts Garza's photo shoot and asks if he is going to be serious. Garza doesn't seem to mind and threatens to do it again, if they have a next time.

Rhea Ripley vs. Asuka

Non-title. Ripley drives her up against the ropes to start but has to duck a shot to the face. A standoff lets Ripley stick out her jaw for a free shot, only to have Asuka sweep the leg. Ripley blocks a drop toehold into the corner and then has to go to the ropes to block a cross armbreaker. They head outside with Ripley getting in a shot of her own....and here is Charlotte for a distraction so Asuka can hit a spinning backfist.

We take a break and come back with Charlotte on commentary as Ripley steps on Asuka's back. Some clotheslines drops Asuka again but she sends Ripley outside. The knee off the apron has Ripley in trouble but she blocks the Asuka Lock back inside. Asuka is knocked outside where she glares at Charlotte, allowing Ripley to nail a headbutt.

Back in and Riptide is countered into a Codebreaker for two. Ripley heads outside to yell at Charlotte, allowing Asuka to hit a hip attack off the announcers' table. Back in and a missile dropkick gives Asuka two but the hip attack in the corner is pulled out of the air. Ripley kicks Asuka in the head and hits Riptide for the pin at 12:15.

Rating: C. I'm really not sure what it means when I'm relieved that Ripley got a win. The title reign has been a near disaster for her, as Ripley has gone from being the brand new big deal to playing third fiddle to these two (and maybe even fifth fiddle to Nia Jax and Alexa Bliss). It will help a bit if she retains on Sunday, but it isn't going to matter if we just get another Charlotte story out of the whole thing.

Here's the same video on Lashley vs. Strowman which opened the show.

Drew McIntyre isn't worried about Braun Strowman tonight because he's moving on to Wrestlemania Backlash to get the title back.

John Morrison vs. Damian Priest

Miz is here with Morrison and the winner picks the stipulation between Miz and Priest on Sunday. Priest starts fast with a side slam but Morrison kicks him in the ribs. Morrison can't pull him quite into a rollup so he hammers away instead. A spinning knee to the face gives Morrison two and we hit the chinlock. Miz turns into a cheerleader, making it clear that in fact, drippin ain't easy.

Back up and Morrison misses a charge to wind up on the apron, where Priest misses some kicks to the head. Morrison hits his own kicks, but Priest is right back with a pop up forearm to the face. The rope is grabbed for the break and Miz pulls Morrison to the floor for a chat. Miz and Priest tease a brawl and we take a break. Back with Priest being knocked outside again, where Miz gets in a big boot.

Morrison adds in a few kicks to the ribs for two, followed by a Russian legsweep for the same. We hit a neck crank (like Morrison is loading up a neckbreaker but just pulls instead of dropping down) but Priest escapes and hits his own kicks to the head. The Broken Arrow gives Priest two, followed by the top rope spinwheel kick for the same. Miz offers a distraction so there is no count when Morrison grabs a crucifix. Instead Priest hits a clothesline and Hits The Lights for the pin at 12:57.

Rating: D+. You know why this didn't work? There is no reason for these people to be fighting. This feud should have wrapped up at Wrestlemania but it's still going because the script decided it does. Priest has

beaten them both up multiple times, but here we are again, because WWE would rather keep this not very good in the first place feud going instead of trying something new. That isn't interesting to anyone but them, and it explains a lot of WWE's issues.

Post match Miz runs in to go after Priest but he breaks away, sending Miz running. Another Hit The Lights plants Morrison and Miz is terrified. No stipulation is announced yet.

Bobby Lashley and Braun Strowman bump into each other in the back.

Eva Marie talks about looking like a supermodel but wanting to be a role model.

Priest picks a lumberjack match.

Backlash rundown.

Bobby Lashley vs. Drew McIntyre

Non-title and MVP is here with Lashley. It's a brawl to start but Lashley can't get an early Hurt Lock. Instead he snaps McIntyre's throat across the top and grabs a neckbreaker for two. Some choking on the ropes keeps McIntyre in trouble until he gets in a shot to the face to take things outside. McIntyre snaps off an overhead belly to belly and we take a break.

Back with Lashley puling McIntyre off the middle rope for a crash, followed by the Downward Spiral for two. We hit the chinlock but Lashley's suplex attempt is countered into one from McIntyre. Lashley runs him over again though and they head outside with McIntyre being posted this time. Back in and McIntyre sends him flying into the corner, followed by a pair of belly to belly suplexes.

There's a jumping neckbreaker into the nipup and the Glasgow Kiss rocks Lashley again. MVP is panicking as McIntyre grabs a spinebuster for two. Lashley is back with a crossbody but the Hurt Lock is blocked. Instead Lashley suplexes him down, only to walk into the Claymore. Cue Braun Strowman to jump McIntyre from behind for the DQ at 13:27.

Rating: D+. They might as well have had a big clock over the ring here, counting down until Strowman ran in. There was little drama here and the WWE Title match at Wrestlemania should not feel like a tired match thirty days after the show. This feud has been a nightmare for everyone involved, including the people watching it, and this was the latest boring piece added onto the top.

Post match, Strowman gives McIntyre a running powerslam, followed by one to Lashley for daring to hug Strowman. Another powerslam plants McIntyre, and another sends Lashley through the part of the barricade designed for destruction. A third powerslam plants McIntyre to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. This show felt so lazy. You had two Wrestlemania rematches tonight, and both matches were designed to make me see two triple threat matches on Sunday, albeit with Charlotte and Braun Strowman added. Throw in that the other Raw match is a stripped down version of the big tag match from Wrestlemania and this doesn't feel so much like Wrestlemania Backlash, but rather Wrestlemania's direct to video sequel with the same plot slightly dressed up. In no way does this make me want to see Sunday's show, but rather it just makes me think there is nothing to the Raw half of the pay per view.

You know what else makes this show look bad? Smackdown, which also has three matches set, but all of them are fresh matches. It makes me think that they are trying over there, which is a heck of a lot more than I get watching Raw. There is nothing here to make me think that Raw is going to be a good show week to week, and that is leaving out the magic and tomatoes. Raw is just horrible at the moment and the mixture of lazy and bad is striking. There were a few minor pieces in here that worked, but the repetitive storytelling and uninspired build have made me want to watch a test pattern instead of Backlash. Do better.

Results

Asuka/Mandy Rose/Dana Brooke b. Charlotte/Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler – Shining Wizard to Baszler

Jinder Mahal b. Jeff Hardy – Khallas

RKBro/New Day b. AJ Styles/Omos/Jaxson Ryker/Elias – RK0 to Elias

Sheamus b. Humberto Carrillo via referee stoppage

Shelton Benjamin b. Cedric Alexander – Exploder suplex

Rhea Ripley b. Asuka – Riptide

Damian Priest b. John Morrison – Hit The Lights

Drew McIntyre b. Bobby Lashley via DQ when Braun Strowman interfered

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Daily News Update – May 10, 2021

The day of the classic stars.

John Cena Teases WWE Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/john-cena-teases-wwe-return/>

WHAT? Steve Austin Set For Two WWE Appearances.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/steve-austin-set-two-big-wwe-appearances/>

VIDEO: Possible Reason For Recent NXT UK Departure.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-possible-reason-recent-nxt-uk-departure/>

WWE RUMOR: Plans For The Usos Revealed.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-rumor-plans-usos-revealed/>

Seth Rollins Offers Sweet Mothers Day Tribute To Becky Lynch.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/seth-rollins-offers-sweet-mothers-day-tribute-becky-lynch/>

Top AEW Star Open To Moving To WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/top-aew-star-open-moving-wwe/>

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Hidden Gem: Sting Meets A Not Yet Legend

So when it became clear that the Network was moving to Peacock, I started marathoning some of the Hidden Gems and got in over 100 of them. They're all ready to go, so I'll be

trying to post one of them a day. Some of these will be very short and some of them will be rather lengthy, but that's part of the fun. We'll start with what would have been a dream match at another time in the right place.

Bruiser Mastino vs. Sting

Date: March 6, 1993

Location: Macon Coliseum, Macon, Georgia

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Jesse Ventura

From WCW Saturday Night and even Jesse has to acknowledge that Sting is crazy popular. They lock up to start and shove each other around with the bigger Mastino powering him into the corner. A rolling Liger Kick puts Mastino down but Sting can't slam him. He can however send Mastino into the corner ten times in a row. The Stinger Splash into the Scorpion Deathlock makes Mastino give up at 2:55.

Post match Sting affirms that everyone is feeling good to wrap up the show. Two things here. First of all, there was another Bruiser Mastino in ECW and as far as I know, there is no connection between the two of them. Second, this Mastino is more famous as Kane.

Daily News Update – May 9, 2021

It's a rumors day.

RUMOR: Top WWE Star May Be Turning Soon.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-top-wwe-star-may-t>

[urning-soon/](#)

WWE RUMOR: Vince McMahon's Thoughts On Daniel Bryan's Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwerumor-vince-mcmahons-thoughts-daniel-bryan-leaving/>

Almost: SmackDown Had To Cut A Planned Segment.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/smackdown-cut-planned-segment/>

RUMOR: SmackDown Debut Postponed This Week.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-smackdown-debut-postponed-week/>

VIDEO: Pat McAfee's Hilarious Vince McMahon Impression.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-pat-mcafees-hilarious-vince-mcmahon-impression/>

Reason Why Roman Reigns Changed Things Up.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/reason-roman-reigns-changed-things/>

As always, please click on all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and [get on the site's Facebook page](#).

Smackdown – December 8, 2006: Wouldn't That Hurt?

Smackdown

Date: December 8, 2006

Location: Florence Civic Center, Florence, South Carolina

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're on the way to Armageddon and the big story is that Raw World Champion John Cena will be joining forces with Smackdown World Champion Batista to face King Booker vs. Finlay. That could make for a big house show match, though they are going to need something a little bigger to make the card work. Would an Inferno match and a Last Ride match be enough? Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here is Mr. Kennedy to get things going, though he is a little shaken up by the hearse entrance. Kennedy says that Undertaker is not going to get inside his head by having a hearse in the arena. That isn't going to take his mind off the Last Ride match because he already beat Undertaker at No Mercy and at Survivor Series. He is already inside Undertaker's head and now he is going to beat Undertaker at Survivor Series. The gong strikes and the hearse starts moving backwards despite no one driving. Undertaker pops out from the back and chases Kennedy off in a hurry.

Paul London/Brian Kendrick vs. William Regal/Dave Taylor

Non-title and Ashley is here with London/Kendrick. Speaking of London and Kendrick, they dropkick the villains off the apron before the bell to start fast. Everyone gets inside so Kendrick can crank on Regal's arm and London adds a jumping elbow to the jaw. Taylor comes in and gets kicked down by Kendrick as commentary starts talking about Ashley in Playboy.

Regal takes London down and drops a knee on the head but the chinlock doesn't last long. Instead he snaps off a half nelson suplex for two and Dave comes in for the full version, though minus the suplex. It's already back to Regal for the chinlock but London fights up and dropkicks his way to freedom. Taylor isn't about to allow a hot tag though and dives onto London for the save.

Regal comes back in and headlocks London in front of Kendrick, because

Regal is great at tormenting people. That takes a bit too long though and London backdrops his way to freedom. The hot tag brings in Kendrick to clean house but Regal goes outside to stalk Regal. London breaks that up and gets a hug, but Regal trips Kendrick down, allowing Taylor to hit the bridging butterfly suplex for the pin.

Rating: C. These guys worked rather well together and it should set up a heck of a title match when they get there. The London/Ashley stuff feels a bit like the Hardys and Lita, which is not the worst place to go, and it isn't like London and Kendrick have much else to do as champions in the first place. Now just do the rematch and see where it goes from there.

John Cena is ready for Armageddon because he doesn't like King Booker or Finlay either.

Batista says we'll never see something like this again and is ready for Finlay tonight.

King Booker wants his title shot but Finlay tells him to wait in line. Booker wants to make sure they are on the same page, but Finlay says Booker talks too much.

Batista vs. Finlay

Non-title. Batista backs him into the corner and smirks a lot on the break. Some right hands and a knee to the face in the corner have Finlay in more trouble and the BATISTA chants start up again. Finlay gets tired of getting hit in the face so he takes Batista down and cranks on a chinlock. That's broken up in a hurry and Batista hits a clothesline, followed by pulling Finlay away from the ropes for a crash. Finlay gets dropped onto and kicked over the barricade as we take a break.

Back with Batista hitting an elbow to the face but getting sent face first into the middle turnbuckle. There's a rake to the eyes to keep Batista down but he manages to get in a quick shot to the face of his own. A Jackhammer plants Finlay for two and it's time to work on a hammerlock.

Batista boots him in the face to send us to the floor again, though this time Finlay sends him shoulder first into the post. Back in and Finlay works on the arm with an armbar and then sends it into the buckle. A Fujiwara armbar goes on but Batista powers up into a Samoan drop. Cue the Leprechaun, who is tossed onto Finlay. Now cue King Booker, who is tossed onto the floor but Finlay comes back with the shillelagh for the DQ.

Rating: C+. This was pretty good while it lasted and the pretty long match time flew by. Batista is getting better at the power game and Finlay can do something like this with anyone. They beat each other up well enough and in this case, the run in made sense as Finlay and Booker are going to need as much momentum as they can to keep the match from looking like the one sided main event that it will be.

Post match the beatdown is on with the villains focusing on Batista's arm.

Jimmy Wang Yang vs. Jamie Noble

The winner gets a Cruiserweight Title shot against Gregory Helms, on commentary, at Armageddon. Noble starts fast and hammers away at Yang, including a suplex for two. We're already on the chinlock as Helms does not seem thrilled with the fact that Yang is "half Asian, half stupid." Yang comes back with a middle rope kick to the face but runs into a powerslam for two. They slug it out until Yang gets in a hard shot to the face, setting up a moonsault press for the pin and the title shot.

Rating: C-. No time here and the win lets Yang have the chance to challenge for the least valuable title in all of WWE. There is no reason to get excited about the title, though at least Helms is finally defending the thing. WWE has done a terrible job of making the title seem like it matters at all so maybe this can help get it back on its feet. Of course it won't, but I'll take it for one night.

Chris Benoit denies that he is a woman beater but Vickie Guerrero comes in to slap him. Chavo Guerrero helps her away.

MVP asks Teddy Long how many times he has to beat Kane. Now it's an

inferno match and that is not cool with him. He tries to talk to him, "brother to brother", but Long says that MVP doesn't have some kind of contract clause to get out of this but if he doesn't get in the ring, he's fired. MVP can call his agent or the Ghostbusters, because next week it's MVP/Mr. Kennedy vs. Undertaker/Kane.

Sylvan vs. Chris Benoit

Non-title and Benoit chops away, rolls the German suplex, and wins with the Crossface in less than a minute.

Fans are looking forward to things on the See No Evil DVD. I'm expecting a movie to be one of them.

Miz vs. Scotty 2 Hotty

Cole and JBL bicker over Miz to start, with JBL seeming to get the better of things as Miz falls outside. Back in and Miz hits a slingshot shoulder for two, which has JBL more behind Scotty. A missed shot in the corner lets Scotty come back with the faceplant. The Worm takes too long though and Miz rolls him up with tights for the pin.

Post match Miz beats on Scotty even more and even tries his own Worm. That's enough to bring out the suspended Boogeyman to lay Miz out and load up the worms....but Miz bails before he gets messy.

In the spirit of the holiday season, Kane roasts some chestnuts....in his bare hand.

Armageddon run down.

Mr. Kennedy vs. Kane

Before the match, Kennedy promises to beat Undertaker again. Kennedy jumps Kane before the bell but gets knocked down and elbow dropped. Kane hammers away in the corner, setting up a legdrop for two. More shots to the face send Kennedy outside so Kane heads outside to keep up the beating. Kennedy manages to get part of the barricade padding off but Kane hits him in the face again. They head outside again and this time Kennedy manages to dropkick him into the exposed barricade.

That's good for an eight count so Kennedy plants him with a DDT for two more. The chinlock goes on for a bit until Kennedy sends him into the corner, only to have a running boot to the face countered with a grab of the throat. Some running clotheslines in the corner set up the side slam to plant Kennedy but he's right back with the swinging neckbreaker. Kane pops back up and knocks Kennedy out of the air, setting up the top rope clothesline. The chokeslam is loaded up but MVP runs in for the DQ.

Rating: C. I'm not sure what else there was to expect here as much like Batista vs. Finlay earlier, the run in finish made the most sense. Kennedy continues to get to hang with a big name and he wasn't completely beaten before the DQ. That's about as good as this was going to be and it worked out fairly well as a main event.

Undertaker, gong, lights out, Kane and Kennedy disappear, fire scares MVP to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. They are doing everything they can to set up the pay per view but there is no way around the fact that the main event is little more than a guest star. The two gimmick matches can help the show a bit, but they are going to need more than that to make it work. I don't think Benoit vs. Chavo (again) and Yang vs. Helms is going to do that, though I'm not sure what else they have to throw on there to make it much better.

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ECW on Sci Fi – December 5, 2006 (2021 Redo): So Long And So Long

ECW on Sci Fi

Date: December 5, 2006

Location: North Charleston Coliseum, North Charleston, South Carolina

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

We're officially done with December To Dismember and for all intent and purpose, done with the original version of the relaunched ECW. This is now the third brand instead of something that has any kind of unique feeling to it and that is going to make for a pretty interesting change going forward. Bobby Lashley is now ECW Champion so let's get to it.

[Here is December To Dismember if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a recap of Bobby Lashley winning the ECW Title inside the Elimination Chamber.

Paul Heyman was in tears after the pay per view, as Big Show is not only the former champion but his blood is also on Heyman's tie. The rematch is this week...and that's the last we'll see of Paul Heyman for five and a half years.

Opening sequence.

Rob Van Dam/CM Punk vs. Test/Hardcore Holly

More Chamber fallout. Punk and Van Dam dedicate the match to Sabu because he should have been in the Chamber with him. Holly starts with Van Dam as the lights seem to be flickering

a bit. Rob kicks him down to start and hits a split legged moonsault to the back. Test pulls him to the floor though and stomps away, followed by Holly grabbing a suplex for two back inside.

It's off to Test to hit a basement clothesline for two and Holly comes back in to get kicked in the face. The hot tag brings in Punk to strike away, followed by the bulldog out of the corner. The Alabama Slam is countered into the Anaconda Vice but here are Heyman's security guards for the DQ.

Rating: C-. They didn't have much time to work with here but it kept Van Dam and Punk strong (outside of the Chamber at least). Test and Holly might as well be Goon #1 and Goon #2 at this point, though I'm not sure who is supposed to replace them on the heel totem pole. They'll do fine for now though.

Post match the beatdown is on but Sabu, with his arm in a sling, makes the save. Van Dam hits a Five Star and Sabu adds the Arabian Facebuster.

Tommy Dreamer vs. Daivari

Rematch from December to Dismember though Dreamer is mostly destroyed after being attacked by Great Khali on Sunday. Daivari dropkicks him down but Dreamer, with his shirt torn to exposed the bandaged shoulder, comes back with a spinebuster. The DDT finishes Daivari in a hurry.

Post match here is Great Khali to beat down Dreamer, including the chokeslam onto a chair.

BUY THE DECEMBER TO DISMEMBER REPLAY!

Next week's show is on Saturday.

Big Show promises to win the title back because it took five people and a bunch of weapons to beat him. Tonight, he is taking the title back. This was as old school talk to the camera style as you are getting in this era.

Kelly Kelly vs. Ariel

Kelly is here by herself and looks terrified. Kevin Thorn is here with Ariel....or at least he is until he is ejected before the match. The catfight is on to start and Kelly grabs a rollup for the pin in less than a minute.

Post match here is Mike Knox with flowers to make peace with Kelly. He apologizes for what he did at December To Dismember and gets on his knees to beg her forgiveness. Then he dumps her and hits a swinging neckbreaker before walking out. Tazz of all people gets in to check on Kelly.

Kane is still in See No Evil and it's still on DVD.

ECW World Title: Big Show vs. Bobby Lashley

Show is challenging. Lashley slugs away with right hands to start until an elbow to the face cuts him down. Back up and Lashley starts going after Show's arm but Show shrugs it off and puts on a kneeling bearhug. Lashley fights out but gets run over with ease and we take a break.

We come back with Lashley's crossbody being countered into a World's Strongest Slam for a near fall. Show stands on his back but Lashley manages to come back with a flying shoulder for two. That earns him a kick to the face to give Show two more and there's a suplex to cut Lashley off again. We hit the abdominal stretch on Lashley with Show adding some right hands to the ribs for a bonus.

With that broken up, Lashley slugs away to little effect as Show puts him on top. A headbutt drops Show and Lashley nails a flying shoulder. More clotheslines put Show down again but the spear is countered with a chokeslam for two. Lashley can't quite hold him up for a slam but it was close enough for two. A big boot and a clothesline sets up another slam (much better this time) for the pin to retain the title.

Rating: C-. Pretty dull match here that went longer than it needed to. Lashley getting the clean win over Show is a way to remove the basically non-existent doubt over his initial title reign. Show beat Lashley up and Lashley made his comeback to retain. What more else can you ask for in a

match like this? This would be it for Show for over a year, so at least he went out putting Lashley over again.

Overall Rating: D+. This wasn't much of a show but then it's kind of hard to get overly annoyed at this when everything was changing behind the scenes. I'm curious to see where things go from here, but it isn't like what happened before all of the changes was all that great. Hopefully the new direction is better, though it's not like there is any track record around here.

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Daily News Update – May 8, 2021

The (Wrestlemania) Backlash build is on!

New Title Match Announced For WrestleMania Backlash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-title-match-announce-d-wrestlemania-backlash/>

Long Injured WWE Star Makes Return On SmackDown.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/long-injured-champion-makes-return-smackdown/>

Universal Title Match Set For WrestleMania Backlash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/universal-title-match-set-wrestlemania-backlash/>

VIDEO: Special Guest Star On Throwback SmackDown.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-special-guest-star-throwback-smackdown/>

VIDEO: WWE's Awesome SmackDown Mashup.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-wwes-awesome-merging-generations/>

WWE Secures Another Classic WCW Pay Per View Name.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-secures-another-classic-wcw-pay-per-view-name/>

New Scripted Series On Vince McMahon In Development.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-tv-series-vince-mcmahon-development/>

WWE RUMOR: This Year's Summerslam Might Be Different.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-rumor-years-summerslam-might-different/>

As always, please click on all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and [get on the site's Facebook page.](#)

Smackdown – May 7, 2021: Throw It Back

Smackdown

Date: May 7, 2021

Location: Yuengling Center, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

It's time for a special show with a Throwback edition of Smackdown. I'm not sure what that is going to entail but we are going to be seeing at least the old logo. I can't imagine we'll be seeing the big fist just due to logistics, but a few cameos should be in order as well. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a Rock montage talking about Smackdown.

The opening video is a collection of all kinds of old school stuff, including Gorilla Monsoon on pay per views.

The (modern version of the) old WWF logo is back and McAfee is in a Vince McMahon blue blazer, while Cole is in the denim shirt.

THE FIST IS BACK! Ok so it's a digital one but it's there!

We look at the main event of the first (non-pilot) Smackdown, with guest referee Shawn Michaels cheating the Rock out of the WWF Title.

Here are Roman Reigns, Paul Heyman and Jey Uso for a chat. After a look back at last week's war against Daniel Bryan and Cesaro making the save from a post match beatdown, Heyman says he is here to eulogize the career of Daniel Bryan. We get a ten bell salute, with Heyman making the sounds instead of waiting on "Mr. Schmucky Timekeeper." Reigns says he is a man of his word so you should acknowledge him. He gives everyone

what they want, from the fans to FOX to Daniel Bryan.

Last week he smashed Bryan, pinned him (not quite) and got rid of him. If Bryan wanted to be here, all he had to do was acknowledge Reigns. They have replaced Bryan with someone who will acknowledge him...and here is the returning Jimmy Uso. Celebrating ensues but here is Cesaro to interrupt. Cesaro says you cannot replace Daniel Bryan but he doesn't have time to worry about Reigns when he is facing Seth Rollins tonight.

Cue Rollins to jump Cesaro from behind the brawl is on outside. Referees break it up, but here is Teddy Long, to say that he has been granted the authority to make a decision. Therefore, if Cesaro wins tonight, he will get his shot at Roman Reigns for the Universal Title at Wrestlemania Backlash. Reigns jumps Cesaro from behind so Rollins can send him into the steps. They go inside and take a break as I try to figure out why Cesaro came out in the first place.

Promotional consideration, paid for by the following: ICO-PRO.

Cesaro vs. Seth Rollins

The Usos are at ringside. Cesaro, favoring his shoulder, pulls himself up and says ring the bell so Cesaro knocks him to the floor in a hurry. Back in and Cesaro hammers away but Rollins slips out of a gorilla press and kicks the knee out. Cesaro reverses a suplex into one of his own but the Swing is blocked. Instead Cesaro rolls him up for two but the Neutralizer is countered into a backdrop to the apron. Jey Uso offers a distraction so Rollins can hit the top rope superplex into the Falcon Arrow for two more.

Back with Rollins getting to the rope to avoid the Sharpshooter and Crossface but Cesaro puts him on top instead. Rollins comes right back with a buckle bomb but Cesaro comes out of the corner with a hard clothesline. Rollins gets sent outside where Jey checks on him, but Rollins doesn't want the help and shoves him down. That earns Rollins a superkick so

Cesaro dives onto Jimmy. Back in and the Neutralizer sends Cesaro to Backlash at 12:42.

Rating: C+. It wasn't quite their Wrestlemania match but it wasn't supposed to be. This was about getting Cesaro to the pay per view and they did that quite well, with the Uso screwup probably getting them in trouble with Reigns. Cesaro is on a roll and it makes a lot of sense to give him the title shot at the pay per view. Good stuff here, and Rollins teasing a bit of a different side could be very good for him.

Post break, we look at what we just saw.

Rollins comes in to see Roman Reigns and asks who he should be mad at. Reigns doesn't want Rollins dealing with his family, because that's Reigns' job. Rollins says fix it or he will.

Classic Smackdown Moment: Steve Austin beats up Booker T. in the grocery store.

Teddy Long and Sonya Deville are in the back when Sami Zayn comes in to say that since Teddy is unbiased, he can give Sami the match that he needs. Teddy: "Tonight you can go one on one with the Undertaker!" Actually, we'll have a tag match with Zayn/Apollo Crews vs. Big E./Kevin Owens/Street Profits/Shinsuke Nakamura. Zayn complains about the numbers being wrong, so Sonya suggests adding Otis and Chad Gable. Long likes that, and throws in King Booker. Sonya corrects that to King Corbin....and now Long wants to dance as Sami leaves. Long is either senile or way funnier than I thought. I'll go with the latter.

Roman Reigns yells at Jimmy Uso for screwing up after only being back for an hour. Jimmy isn't going to be talked to like that and leaves, with Jey trying to calm things down.

Carmella vs. Ruby Riott

Liv Morgan is here too. Carmella takes Ruby into the corner

and dances out but gets shouldered back down. A hair pull takes Riott back down but she headscissors Carmella face first into the middle buckle. An STO gets two on Carmella and they go into a pinfall reversal sequence until Carmella gets in the Cone of Silence for the tap at 2:18. This was just a way to get Carmella back with a win.

Classic Smackdown Moment: Edge and Hulk Hogan win the Tag Team Titles. It still looks weird to see Hogan with that belt.

Classic Smackdown Moment: Big Show and Brock Lesnar break the ring.

Here is Bayley for a chat. She is here to celebrate the great women's champions of WWE, because they are the women who put their bodies on the line for you. We see shots of Alundra Blayze (Bayley: "She's no Bayley."), Jacqueline (who held the title twice, but not as long as Bayley), Lita (Bayley's childhood hero), Trish Stratus, Ivory, Beth Phoenix, Molly Holly and of course Bianca Belair.

Bayley calls Belair young and excited but naive, because she isn't on Bayley's level. She sees insecurity in Belair's eyes because Bayley is going to be the first and last challenger for the title. Cue Belair who says she is champion whether Bayley likes it or not. The brawl is on with Bayley sending her into the corner and even pulling on Belair's earring. Bayley says listen to her and hits the bulldog driver.

Jey catches up to Jimmy (who was about three seconds ahead of him and apparently has not stopped walking for the last ten minutes) and asks if Jimmy really meant all of that. Jey explains that Reigns is family but Jimmy doesn't like Reigns talking to them like that. Jimmy says Reigns would say he doesn't need them but Jimmy needs Jey. They need to get their Tag Team Titles back and be champions with Reigns if they want to represent the family. It would be weird to have the Usos on the show and not at least going after the titles so it makes

sense.

Classic Smackdown Moment: John Cena debuts.

Dolph Ziggler vs. Rey Mysterio

Robert Roode and Dominik Mysterio are ringside. Before the match, Ziggler says Dominik is just famous for being Rey's son so get out of the ring and let the adults handle this. Dominik wants to have the match instead so here we go.

Dominik Mysterio vs. Dolph Ziggler

Dolph talks trash to start so Dominik slaps him in the face. Ziggler shoves him up against the ropes and shouts that Dominik doesn't belong here. Dominik sends him to the floor but gets tripped down, setting up a slam on the outside. Back in and a neckbreaker gives Ziggler a posing two count but Dominik small packages him for the pin at 2:15. Keeping Dominik's matches short is probably not the worst idea here.

Reginald talks about how Tamina disrespected him last week. Next week, Nia Jax and Shayna Baszler are going to retain the Tag Team Titles over Tamina and Natalya. For tonight though, it is time to cleanse the bad taste from Nia's mouth. Nia: "Aw Reggie."

Promotional consideration paid for by the following: WWF Ice Cream Bars!

Classic Smackdown Moment: Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Roman Reigns tells Paul Heyman to bring him his cousin. Heyman: "Which one?" A glare makes Heyman understand. That was great.

Tamina vs. Reginald

This feels like a random match made by a glitching copy of WWE2K20. Natalya, Nia Jax and Shayna Baszler are here too.

Reginald bails into the ropes to start and then heads outside to continue the stalling. A running clothesline is countered with a standing moonsault and he flips out of a grab of the hair. Tamina puts him on the top so Reginald flips away to land on his feet. That earns him a superkick and the Superfly Splash is loaded up but Baszler shoves Tamina off the top for the DQ at 2:15.

Post match Natalya and Tamina get beaten down, including Tamina being Samoan dropped into the barricade.

Team Apollo Crews is ready, though Sami Zayn seems to be the odd man out.

Team Big E. is ready and Shinsuke Nakamura wants the smoke.

Alpha Academy/Sami Zayn/King Corbin/Apollo Crews vs. Street Profits/Big E./Kevin Owens/Shinsuke Nakamura

Commander Azeez is here with the villains. Dawkins armdrags Gable down a few times and hands it off to Ford. That's fine with Crews, who comes in and hammers away before mocking the NEW DAY ROCKS clap. Zayn comes in to work on Ford's arms but Ford backflips away and hits the great dropkick. It's off to Big E. to headlock Corbin, who drives him into the corner for some cheap shots from Zayn. Owens isn't having this and the big brawl breaks down on the floor. The bullfrog splash from the apron crushes Zayn and we take a break.

Back with Otis cranking on Owens' neck and hitting a splash in the corner. Crews comes in but gets enziguried down for a breather. Owens adds a spinwheel kick and the hot tag brings in Nakamura to start cleaning house with kicks all around. Everything breaks down and we hit the parade of secondary finishers. Gable German suplexes Owens on the floor but gets Pounced by Dawkins. Ford adds a big flip dive to the floor, leaving Nakamura to hit Kinshasa on Zayn. Corbin tags himself in though and hits End of Days to finish Nakamura at 10:43.

Rating: C+. This could have been worse, even if Corbin getting a win made me roll my eyes. To be fair though, Corbin hasn't been doing much as of late so reheating him a bit might not be the worst idea. You're only ever going to get so much out of such a big match like this so it was about as much as you could have asked to see.

Roman Reigns is not pleased with Jey Uso but wants to give Jimmy another chance. Jimmy is going to get a chance to show where he stands right now.

Classic Smackdown Moment: Vince McMahon experiences Eddie Guerrero's low rider.

Here are Roman Reigns, Paul Heyman and Jey Uso to wrap things up. Reigns starts recapping things but here's Jimmy to interrupt. Jimmy recaps Jey vs. Roman Reigns in the I Quit match in the Cell, where Jimmy ran in for the save and got choked out, with Jey quitting to save his brother.

After that tape that they just happened to have laying around, Jimmy says he never would have quit. Reigns can't believe that's what this is about because he and Jey have moved forward. He isn't going back and forth with Jimmy, who needs to fall in line and stand with them. Either that, or go home and watch Reigns and the Uso (singular) with his kids.

Jimmy goes to leave, gets conflicted, and then keeps walking. Jey goes to the floor to talk to him but here is Cesaro to jump Reigns. Despite Jimmy trying to hold him back, Jey runs in for the save but gets beaten down. Jimmy hesitates but comes in to go after Cesaro as well, earning himself the pop up European uppercut. A nearly botched Neutralizer plants Jey and there's a better one to Reigns to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show mainly focused on the Reigns/Usos stuff, which worked out well enough, including the cliffhanger at the end. It isn't exactly revolutionary and feels a bit like the Young Bucks' recent issues in AEW, but

it's nice to see the Usos back in some form. The rest of the show was the usual hit and miss variety pack, though the idea of Reginald vs. Tamina still makes my head hurt quite a bit.

As for the big Throwback theme....well the logos were certainly there. Given that it was a FOX deal that they are doing over the weekend, I can't get too mad at WWE for not having the biggest enthusiasm for this one. The clips were nice to see (despite having seen them quite a few times now) and the digital fist was better than nothing....I think. WWE can do these things well, but this was more of a bonus feature for some window dressing than an overall theme, so it's not like there was much of a grand expectation.

Results

Cesaro b. Seth Rollins – Neutralizer

Carmella b. Ruby Riott – Cone of Silence

Dominik Mysterio b. Dolph Ziggler – Small package

Tamina b. Reginald via DQ when Nia Jax interfered

Alpha Academy/King Corbin/Sami Zayn/Apollo Crews b. Street Profits/Big E./Kevin Owens/Shinsuke Nakamura – End of Days to Nakamura

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205 Live – April 30, 2021: This Is 205 Live

205 Live

Date: April 30, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Nigel McGuinness

It's another show from the cruiserweights and odds are we are not going to be seeing any of the bigger names of the division. I don't know if it is some kind of a Coronavirus thing or just a weird choice, but you would think that some of the more prominent cruiserweights could pop up here every now and then. I would say maybe tonight, but I wouldn't get my hopes up. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Jake Atlas/August Grey vs. Bollywood Boyz

Sunil headlocks Grey to the mat to start and then runs him over with a shoulder. They go to a standoff so it's a fist bump and a double tag to bring in Samir to roll Atlas up. The kickout sends Samir outside in a crash so it's time for Atlas to chop away back inside. Atlas elbows Samir down and puts on a bodyscissors to work on the ribs.

Grey comes back in and sends Samir chest first into the buckle. Samir manages to get in a shot of his own and the hot tag brings in Sunil to clean house. The top rope elbow gets two on Atlas but Sunil is sent into Samir to knock him to the floor. Atlas hits a good superkick on Sunil and

Grey adds the spinning high crossbody for the pin at 6:45.

Rating: C. Pretty nice match here as Grey and Atlas are fine enough as a team. Granted that isn't going to get them very far as there are only two regular teams on this show and they just beat one of them. At least it is a slightly different way for them to go though as it isn't like there is anything else for the two of them to do.

Post match here are Ariya Daivari/Tony Nese to interrupt the celebration as they have a match of their own.

We look at Legado del Fantasma beating Kushida/MSK on NXT.

Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari vs. Ever-Rise

Nese takes Martel down to start and hands it off to Daivari for some kicks to the head. It's already back to Nese for the cover and the forearms to the back keep Martel in trouble. Daivari snapmares him into a chinlock as Martel stays down. A dropkick gives Nese two but Martel is back up with a clothesline. Nese knocks Parker off the apron like a good villain should and the springboard moonsault connects. Daivari adds the Persian Lion splash for two but Martel gets in a shot of his own, allowing the hot tag to Parker.

A Gory Bomb gets two on Nese but he's right back up to go to the corner. Nese's superplex is countered into a super spinning neckbreaker but Daivari is back in with a reverse DDT for two. Martel is taken up top for a running palm strike and an Iconoclasm. Nese gets two off a 450 but Martel is right back with a powerbomb into a Boston crab. Daivari makes the save with a superkick but Parker comes in for one of his own. Everything breaks down and it's the Sweet Taste to finish Nese at 11:53.

Rating: C. What else is there to say about a Nese and Daivari match? It feels like we have seen about a hundred of them at this point and that doesn't exactly leave you with much to get excited about. Ever-Rise have turned into some rather enjoyable good guys and yet there still isn't much of a reason to care about what you're seeing here. Totally passable

match and that's the end of my enthusiasm.

Overall Rating: C-. This was indeed an episode of 205 Live, featuring mostly the same people having matches that we have probably seen before. I know I make the same criticisms of this show over and over but that is because we keep seeing the same things over and over. I'm not even expecting things to change any longer, but it would be nice to be able to believe that they could. As usual though, it's hard to really get mad at a 30 minute show, but it isn't easy to get interested either.

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