

NXT – March 3, 2021: They're Ready

NXT

Date: March 3, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Beth Phoenix, Vic Joseph

The big story around here continues to be the complete implosion of the Undisputed Era after Adam Cole turned on the team and left them laying. Finn Balor is involved as well and that could make for some interesting situations. On top of that, the Women's Tag Team Titles are on the line tonight as Shayna Baszler/Nia Jax are defending against Dakota Kai/Raquel Gonzalez. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week's brawl between Adam Cole, Kyle O'Reilly and Finn Balor.

Last night, Oney Lorcan and Danny Burch got into an argument with Tommaso Ciampa and Timothy Thatcher, setting up a non-title match for tonight. This is due to Wes Lee's broken hand, meaning MSK's Tag Team Title shot is being postponed.

Oney Lorcan/Danny Burch vs. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher

Non-title. Thatcher and Burch start things off with Thatcher taking him to the mat for an armbar. Back up and Thatcher takes him right back down into another armbar, setting up an elbow drop to the arm. They get up again and this time it's an exchange of uppercuts, with Thatcher knocking him into the corner for the tag off to Ciampa. Lorcan comes in as well and they strike it out as well until Lorcan grabs him by the head.

A headlock takeover is countered with a headscissors, followed

by a running knee to send Lorcan outside. Burch gets knocked outside as well and Thatcher uppercuts the heck out of him. Back in and a heck of a discus lariat drops Lorcan, followed by a flapjack into Thatcher's uppercut.

Thatcher grabs a chinlock but Lorcan goes to the eyes and the knee to put Thatcher down for a change. A clothesline sends Thatcher outside, where he grabs his neck as we take a break. Back with Thatcher (whose neck seems fine) fighting out of Lorcan's half crab and kicking Burch away, allowing the hot tag to Ciampa. House is cleaned in a hurry and it's back to Thatcher for the uppercuts. Ciampa fires off chops and Thatcher comes in again for some forearms.

Everything breaks down and stereo forearms to the chest have Lorcan and Burch bailing to the floor. Burch hits Thatcher in the head though and there's the half and half suplex from Lorcan. Everyone goes down again and the NXT chants are on strong. Thatcher crawls over to Ciampa but here's Imperium on the stage. Ciampa is knocked down and the elevated implant DDT finishes Thatcher at 13:14.

Rating: C+. This got some time and the Imperium deal has me interested, but it wasn't the most thrilling match in certain parts. Thatcher and Ciampa are fine as a team and it's nice to see the champs getting a win, even if it wasn't exactly clean. Good opener though, and about as good of an option as they had given the injury to Lee.

Post match Ciampa does not look happy with Thatcher.

Here is a ticked off Roderick Strong to call out Adam Cole. He gets Finn Balor instead, who says that Cole isn't coming out here for him. Strong blames Balor for the team falling apart but Balor says the title is what split them up. Balor knows how to get Cole out here and challenges Cole for a title match next week. That doesn't bring Cole out, so Balor tells Strong to get a killer instinct. The fight is on until referees break

it up.

It's time to go to a psychiatric hospital where the Way is having group therapy. Johnny Gargano says Dexter Lumis has been affecting all of them, with Austin Theory not even being messed up by Lumis kidnapping him. Theory says nothing happened because it was just two dudes hanging out.

Gargano asks Indi Hartwell what she is doing on the notepad, which would be doodling the words "MRS. INDI WRESTLING LUMIS". Gargano snaps, demanding to know why Lumis isn't in jail. The therapist thinks Gargano has some deep seeded issues, sending Gargano into a complete meltdown. Gargano is thrown out but he'll be outside if anyone needs him. More on this later.

Cameron Grimes wants to change the name of the CWC into the Cameron Grimes Auditorium, which he can absolute afford. William Regal comes in to say he has a potential lawsuit on his hands. Regal tells Grimes to chill and tonight it's Grimes vs. Bronson Reed. Grimes is not pleased and offers Regal money because...everybody has...a price. Grimes: "THAT D*** TED DIBIASE!" Oh man that is going to be a great cameo when it happens.

Aliyah vs. Ember Moon

Jessi Kamea, Robert Stone and Shotzi Blackheart (with tank) are here too. Moon works on the arm to start but Aliyah flips up and hits a forearm to the jaw. That gets a rather annoyed look from Moon, who lets Aliyah try it again. That earns her a belly to back slam and it's time to go to the floor. Moon...I believe kicks her in the face but the rapid camera cut makes it hard to see.

Either way it gets two back inside (with the replay showing that it was a dropkick which hit clean, making the camera cut pretty pointless) but Aliyah gets in a shot of her own for two of her own. We hit the chinlock with a knee in Moon's back but she's right back up with a spinebuster. Stone and Kamea's

interruption earns them a double clothesline from Blackheart and the Eclipse finishes for Moon at 4:53.

Rating: C. I can go for both the Eclipse being back and Moon/Blackheart staying friends after the tournament ends. The women's tag team division could certainly use some more depth so why not let them see what they can do. Aliyah continues to astound me as she has barely progressed whatsoever in years now. She's passable in the ring but you would think that being in developmental this long would mean a little more development no?

Timothy Thatcher and Tommaso Ciampa say what happened with Imperium is in the past, where it is going to stay. How long has Ciampa had hair on his head?

Video on Io Shirai vs. Toni Storm before their title match next week.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler vs. Raquel Gonzalez/Dakota Kai

Kai and Gonzalez are challenging. Jax throws Kai around with ease to start and there's a running splash in the corner to make it worse. Baszler comes in for a pat on the head, which does not sit well with Kai. It doesn't seem to matter to Baszler, who takes her down to the mat, only to miss the stomp to the arm. Baszler knocks Kai down again and out to staredown as we take a break.

Back with Kai hitting the running kick to Baszler's face in the corner. Baszler takes her down by the leg though and hands it off to Jax for the power. A gorilla press drop leaves Kai thudding onto the mat so Baszler can get two. Kai kicks out the leg though and the hot tag brings in Gonzalez for a big dropkick. A powerslam gets two on Baszler but the powerbomb is broken up. That means Jax comes in for the showdown and they go straight to the slugout.

Jax gets the better of things and it's back to Baszler for two off a forearm. The Kirifuda Clutch is broken up though and Gonzalez kicks her in the face. Kai hits her own kick to the face for two more but something like a GTS is blocked. The Kirifuda Clutch has Kai in trouble but she crawls over for the tag off to Gonzalez. The referee gets bumped as Gonzalez goes after Jax and the two go over the announcers' table. Baszler grabs the Kirifuda Clutch on Kai as Adam Pearce sends a second referee in to call the knockout at 13:15. Commentary makes a big deal out of Kai not being legal.

Rating: C. There wasn't much drama to this one but the action was good enough. That's kind of the problem with having these NXT teams challenge for the titles: it is almost impossible to imagine an NXT star beating the main roster wrestlers, especially when Jax and Baszler are already scheduled to defend the titles against Lana and Naomi at some point in the future. For a one off match, it was fine enough though.

It's back to therapy, with Theory thinking Lumis wants a friend and Hartwell wanting to be that friend. Candice LeRae doesn't buy it, even as Gargano texts her what to say to the therapist. The therapist checks the door and here's Gargano to ask if anyone wants something from Uber Eats. That's enough of Gargano, so the therapist wants to know what really happened when Lumis abducted Theory. Things get tense and we'll be back later.

We go to Isaiah Scott's recording studio, where he wants to talk about life opportunities. Leon Ruff had a North American Title shot handed to him but Scott had to scratch and claw to get his shot. This is NXT in the CWC and that makes it Swerve's House. Ruff doesn't want to go to war with someone who cares less than him because Swerve is just different. He doesn't care anymore.

Here's LA Night for his in-arena debut. Knight has waited way too long to step into this ring, look into that camera and say

“let me talk to ya”. He isn’t going to stand out here talking about childhood dreams because he’s the one man revolution. Some people might say he’s the Tom Brady of wrestling but Brady wishes he was half the man that he is. Just like old Tommy Boy, Knight isn’t a first round draft pick but bet every dollar you have to your name that he will be the one setting trends and records.

Knight has been looking around NXT and sees your Johnny Gargano, Kyle O’Reilly, Adam Cole and Finn Balor. They all have their kicks, flips and dives so bring all of them to your front door. He isn’t here to do anything fancy and while you might not like the way he does it, he gets the job done. Knight is the last of a dying breed (ugh) and some people might be saying that he is the best of all time.

When his coronation takes place, don’t call him the GOAT. No, call him LA Knight, and that is just a fact of life. Bronson Reed comes out for his match and Knight isn’t pleased about being cut off but leaves in peace. I’ve always liked Knight’s promos but please not another last of a dying breed. There have been way too many of them in wrestling over the years.

Bronson Reed vs. Cameron Grimes

Grimes throws his money around during his entrance and offers Reed a payoff. That earns him a shot to the face so Grimes has to try and pick up his money (smart man). The powerbomb is broken up but Grimes is thrown outside as we take a break. Back with Grimes nailing an enziguri and managing the flipping crossbody for two. A crossface doesn’t last long on Reed so Grimes knees him in the head.

Reed fights up again and hits something like a Thesz press minus the press. Grimes hits a Superman punch but gets knocked down by a clothesline. That’s enough for Grimes so he tries to leave, only to get taken down by a suicide dive (ouch). It’s enough to knock Grimes’ hat off so here’s LA Knight for a

distraction and a crotching. Grimes hits the Cave In for the pin at 8:28.

Rating: C. These guys are both doing rather well right now and it's nice to see Grimes getting a win, even one like this. He has struck gold with this money deal and while it won't last forever, it is one of the best things going in wrestling today. Reed vs. Knight could be interesting as Knight could use a first feud. Just let Knight talk a lot and he'll be fine.

William Regal is yelling at Adam Pearce over the ending to the Tag Team Title match.

Kayden Carter isn't happy about what Xia Li did to Kacy Catanzaro and it's time for revenge.

We look at Karrion Kross destroying Santos Escobar and Legado del Fantasma last week.

Back to therapy where Theory talks about being in a really small room with Lumis. Theory ate cereal and watched cartoons all day because Lumis isn't a bad guy. The therapist doesn't get how Theory can imagine Lumis as a nice guy because she talked to Lumis this morning. She couldn't make him stop talking and Lumis said he couldn't wait to get rid of Theory.

Lumis found him rude, loud, and obsessed with cutting off the bottom half of his shirts to show off his average abdominal muscles. Theory runs out screaming and crying but the Way brings him back in. Gargano yells at the therapist but then thanks her for making everything work after the rest of the team leaves. Gargano tells Theory that they're going to Chuck E. Cheese to calm him down.

Ever-Rise vs. Breezango

Breezango is still around? Actually hang on as Legado del Fantasma jump them during their entrances (astronauts this

time around) and leave them laying. Legado chases Ever-Rise off too so Santos Escobar can jump both of them from behind. Escobar beats them both up and gets inside, saying do not mistake last week for weakness. If you do that, then this is what awaits you. No match if that wasn't clear.

Here is what's coming next week, including the Women's and NXT Title matches.

Video on Finn Balor vs. Adam Cole.

In response to the ending of the Women's Tag Team Title match, William Regal promises a game changing announcement next week.

Finn Balor vs. Roderick Strong

Non-title. They lock up to start and go to the mat with Balor grabbing a quickly broken chinlock. Back up and Strong goes for the arm but Balor blocks it for a good bit. Balor grabs the arm as well but Strong manages a backbreaker to send us to a break. Back with Strong sending Balor into the buckle and chopping away. Balor kicks him down though and stomps away before cranking on the arm even more. A big crank has Strong on the apron for a breather but Balor is right back with the armbar.

Balor pulls on the arm even more until Strong comes back with a powerslam. Another backbreaker connects for two but Balor comes back with something like an Anaconda Vice. Strong gets out and hits a running clothesline, setting up the belly to back faceplant. The running forearms against the ropes set up Strong's Angle Slam into a tiger bomb for another near fall.

Strong goes for the Strong Hold but has to counter Balor's counter into a rollup. The fireman's carry gutbuster is loaded up but Balor spins into a double stomp to the chest to put Strong down again. A Pele knocks Strong into the ropes and there's the shotgun dropkick into the corner. The Coup de Grace into 1916 finishes Strong at 13:46.

Rating: B. This worked well as they took their time getting going but then picked up the pace really well. Balor is money right now and he is helping to bring everyone else up with him, which is one of the best things that the champion can do. I liked this match a lot and Strong looked, well, strong, in defeat.

Adam Cole comes out for the staredown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Good show this week as it did the most important thing by building up next week's big show. I'm looking forward to the two title matches and we got a solid enough show setting things up. NXT has figured out how to make this work far better in recent weeks and I want to see where these things go. I'm not sure where this leaves April's Takeover, but I can live with a big time weekly show

Results

Oney Lorcan/Danny Burch b. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher – Elevated implant DDT to Ciampa

Ember Moon b. Aliyah – Eclipse

Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler b. Dakota Kai/Raquel Gonzalez – Kirifuda Clutch to Kai

Cameron Grimes b. Bronson Reed – Cave In

Finn Balor b. Roderick Strong – 1916

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Monday Night Raw – October 2, 2006: The One Match Formula

Monday Night Raw

Date: October 2, 2006

Location: Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's time for a big title match as Raw doesn't have a pay per view in October. This time around it is going to be the grand finale (for now at least) between Edge and John Cena as Edge is challenging for the Raw World Title inside a cage. Other than that, we are going to be seeing more of DX vs. the McMahons, or at least Jonathan Coachman acting as their surrogate. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here is DX to open things up, including a look at the McMahons being destroyed in the Cell during their entrance. HHH hits the catchphrases and shows us a shot of Vince McMahon's face being put into Big Show's....uh, yeah. Before Shawn can tell you what you can do if you're not down with that, here's Jonathan Coachman to interrupt. On behalf of the McMahons, it's time for a Texas Tornado match. Why does it always have to be a Texas tornado match? Why not a Kansas Kollision? Or a Wichita Whirlwind if you want to keep up the theme?

D-Generation X vs. Lance Cade/Trevor Murdoch vs. Charlie

Haas/Viscera vs. Highlanders

DX cleans house to start but get caught in the corner by the numbers advantage. Viscera's big splash hits Haas though and DX hammers away at the monster. A double shoulder takes him down and it's a facebuster/atomic drop to put Murdoch on the floor. There's a double DDT to Viscera and Shawn drops the top rope elbow on Haas. The superkick into the Pedigree puts Haas away in a hurry.

Post match Coach freaks out and says we aren't done tonight because he runs this show. HHH says maybe DX should and chases Coach to the back because they're in charge tonight.

Intercontinental Title: Jeff Hardy vs. Johnny Nitro

Nitro, with Melina, is defending. Jeff starts fast with something close to a Sling Blade and drops the leg between the legs. That's enough to send Nitro bailing to the floor and Hardy hits a dive off the apron. We come back from a break with Nitro holding a reverse chinlock with a knee in Hardy's back.

Melina screams a lot as Hardy is sent into the post, setting up a backbreaker for two. Nitro cranks on both arms but Hardy pulls himself up and kicks Nitro away for a break. A few more shots to the face put Nitro on the floor with Hardy being right there to dropkick Nitro in the face. The barricade run into the dive takes out Nitro and Melina (for the required ankle injury) and it's the Swanton to give Hardy the title.

Rating: C+. Not too bad here and it was nice to see Hardy actually get the big win here instead of having him come up short again. Nitro has gotten a nice boost out of the title and should be fine going forward. A rematch wouldn't surprise me either, especially with Cyber Sunday on the way soon. Hardy winning the title still feels like an important deal and that is how a title change should come across.

We look at Edge cashing in the Money in the Bank briefcase to take the World Title from John Cena for the first time.

DX is outside of Coach's office but he won't let them in. Jokes about what Coach is doing in there (it could put his eye out) abound.

Jeff Hardy is happy to win the title, with the interview turning into an ad for Maria appearing on ECW's Extreme Strip Poker next week. Melina comes in to screech so Jeff puts his hand over her mouth.

Coach is on the phone with Vince McMahon, who tells Coach to do...something. That sends Coach outside into the hallway where he can't find DX. He walks a little ways but eventually runs into HHH, with Shawn popping up on the other side. We get the Good, The Bad And The Ugly knockoff music until DX throws Coach into the women's locker room.

HHH is rather pleased as they go in, with Shawn closing his eyes. The women tell Shawn where Coach went so he gives pursuit while HHH stops to flirt with Torrie Wilson, Kelly Kelly and Mickie James. Shawn pulls him back and the chase continues until Coach finds Big Dick Johnson. Then he slips on a wet floor, allowing DX to chase him outside. DX throws him in a trashcan, with a janitor throwing trash on top of him and wheeling it away.

Here's how John Cena got the title back from Edge at the Royal Rumble.

DX comes up to the Spirit Squad and tells them that there is a new dress code around here (in a Johnny Ace impression). The Squad protests but the power of the sledgehammer makes them change their minds.

Umaga vs. Snitsky

Umaga, who is facing Kane in a Loser Leaves Raw match next week, hits a pop up Samoan drop, the running hip attack in the corner, and the Samoan Spike for the fast pin.

Randy Orton is sick of hearing about Carlito so it's time for an RK0.

The Marine has action scenes.

Randy Orton vs. Carlito

Orton starts fast and knocks Carlito outside, followed by a whip into the post back inside. Carlito's legs are fine enough to snap off a hurricanrana but Orton pulls him down by the arm again. That's broken up so Carlito slugs away and hits the springboard back elbow. A springboard flip dive into a Lionsault gets two but Orton sends him to the apron. Carlito springboards in with a high crossbody but Orton rolls through and grabs the trunks for the pin.

Rating: D+. Carlito continues to be just there and I don't particularly care to see him do anything here. He's not someone I want to cheer for or want to see get his revenge on Orton, because there is nothing to Orton. All he does is make spitting jokes and used to date Trish. Is there anything else to him other than that?

We look at Rob Van Dam winning the Raw World Title from John Cena at One Night Stand, with an assist from Edge.

The Spirit Squad needs more time to change and refuse to come out, so DX threatens to strip them of the Tag Team Titles. HHH then describes them as "gay".

Cryme Tyme steals a doughnut from a police office and run away.

Nicky vs. Sgt. Slaughter

The Squad are here as cheerleaders in some rather revealing uniforms (Which don't cover their underwear. I'll spare you the question of why DX had those.). Nicky misses a right hand, meaning he has to go to the ropes to get out of the Cobra Clutch. Slaughter gets two off a gutbuster but gets sent outside for the group beatdown. Back in and the USA chant goes on, only to be cut off by Nicky's sleeper. Another Cobra Clutch is broken up and Nicky slaps on the armbar. Cue DX on screen to say that Nicky forgot his (female) underwear, allowing Slaughter to grab the rollup for the pin.

Rating: D. This was little more than a way to have the Squad get embarrassed by DX and that worked out well enough. It's not like the Squad has any real capital to lose at this point so having someone like Slaughter, especially under these circumstances, beat him makes any difference. Just get the titles off of them already though because the joke of them losing is getting old.

Here's how Edge won the title from John Cena and Rob Van Dam on Raw in July.

Women's Title Tournament First Round: Victoria vs. Mickie James

DX orders them to wear lingerie, which is....pretty much about the same as they usually wear. Victoria hammers away in the corner to start and fires off some knees to the ribs. Mickie's hurricanrana out of the corner is blocked without much effort but Victoria's Boston crab is escaped as well. Victoria sends her to the apron so Mickie tries a sunset flip, with Victoria grabbing the ropes for the block. The referee breaks that up so it's a sunset flip to give Mickie the pin.

Post match, Victoria freaks out.

Commercial for Eric Bischoff's Controversy Creates Cash book, focusing on him firing people.

Chris Masters is asking Bischoff about the book when DX comes in. Bischoff calls them an NWO rip off, which Shawn deems BLASPHEMY. That's enough to send Bischoff running, so HHH asks Masters when he's going to write a book. Masters has been thinking of writing a nutrition book, and HHH even has the title: "How To Lose 50lbs In Four Weeks". Masters leaves in a hurry. Shawn is still worried about being an NWO rip off but HHH says he who laughs last laughs best. Then they laugh.

Then John Cena won the title back from Edge at Unforgiven.

Raw World Title: John Cena vs. Edge

Edge, with Lita, is challenging in a cage with pinfall, submission or escape to win. Cena has a bad arm coming in but the good arm is fine enough to ram Edge into the cage over and over. A kick to the face rocks Cena though and the bad arm goes into the cage. Cena's suplex cuts off Edge's escape attempt and gets two as JR is right there to explain that Edge would have won the title had he won. See how quick and easy it can be?

The FU is countered into the Impaler for two and Edge slaps on a Fujiwara armbar. That's broken up and Cena's Throwback gets two. Edge pulls him off the cage though and it's a spear to drive Cena into the steel for a good looking crash. Now it's Edge going up but Cena catches him with a super bulldog as we take a break. Back with Cena using the good arm for a belly to belly suplex as we cut to some Marines watching from the crowd.

Edge is back up to throw Cena's bad arm into the cage but Cena is right there again to stop the escape attempt. They sit on top and slug it out with Cena being knocked back in first. Cena pulls him back in as well but Edge gets in a superplex for two. Edge climbs but gets crotched on top, allowing Cena to initiate his finishing sequence. The FU is blocked with a grab of the cage though and Edge sends him head first into the cage again.

Another FU is countered again to give Edge two again so he tries to escape. That's broken up by Cena, so Lita grabs Edge's arms as she throws in a chair. The referee ejects Lita but the referee gets bumped. A heck of a chair shot knocks Edge down to set up the STFU but here are Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch to take Cena out. Cue DX to make the save though and Shawn superkicks Murdoch into the door into Edge's head. The FU retains Cena's title.

Rating: B. Good stuff here and it felt like the big blowoff to the feud. They needed to wrap the thing up here as it has been going on for about eight months now and there isn't much else to do. The good thing is that Edge stayed strong in defeat, and now they are ready to move on to something else. Cena needs a fresh challenger and we can get somewhere else soon enough, but for now they had the big finale and it worked out well.

Overall Rating: C+. This was ALL about the main event with the DX shenanigans just filling in time elsewhere. What we got was a nice show built around one match and that worked out fine. They can start things up again next week as the build towards Cyber Sunday can begin, but this was good enough and it's nice to see them set something up and then pay it off like this.

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Dynamite – March 3, 2021: They Did This Really Well

Dynamite

Date: March 3, 2021

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross, Excalibur

It's an extra big night around here as it's time for the Shaquille O'Neal match. That could go in a variety of directions but the quality of the match means absolutely nothing. The idea here is that the match needs to be anything resembling passable and everything will be fine. I'm not sure what else is on the card and I don't think it really matters. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Quick recap of the mixed tag, still without a reason for the whole thing to start.

Cody Rhodes/Red Velvet vs. Shaquille O'Neal/Jade Cargill

Cargill has never wrestled before and O'Neal has only been in a battle royal. Cody and Shaq start and O'Neal just dwarfs him. A wristlock is shoved away and Cody takes him into a corner for some chops. That's broken up and Shaq hits his own chop, which has Cody down on his knee. Another chop has Cody rocked and it's off to the women, with Jade throwing her into the corner.

Velvet fires off some kicks, one of which seemed to miss and had to be covered with a camera cut. Cargill throws her down again and mocks the stirring the pot deal, but Velvet hits a high crossbody. That's countered into a fall away slam for two, with Cody running over to knee Shaq off the apron. Billy Gunn's kids and QT Marshall try to interfere but get beaten down by Shaq.

Velvet moonsaults down onto Arn Anderson, Cody and Jade, none of whom seemed to be expecting her. Back in and Cargill puts on the figure four (making sure to throw in a mocking wave)

with Velvet breaking that up in a hurry. It's table time, with everyone seemingly confused by Jade pulling one out. Velvet breaks that up and throws Cargill back inside before setting up her own table next to it. An enziguri rocks Jade again so it's back to the men, with Shaq wanting a test of strength.

Cody's kick to the leg doesn't do much good as Shaq grabs a powerbomb for two. Back up and Cody hits a slam, which isn't treated as quite the big idea. It's back to the women to slug it out and Cargill manages a spinebuster (but doesn't look at Arn) for two, drawing Cody in again. This time it's a poke to Shaq's eye and a running crossbody drives him through the tables. Cargill is stunned and walks into....well commentary says a spear but the camera cut to the floor, making me wonder how bad it was. Jade hits a Glam Slam for the pin at 12:03.

Rating: B-. This could have been far, far worse and that's all it needed to be. The best thing to say here is that they didn't have any terrible botches and while there were a ton of camera cuts, they managed to hide all of the problems well enough. This was a perfectly fine celebrity match and the table spot/powerbomb both looked good. Cargill looks very green in the ring but she has the charisma and mannerisms down, which is a good sign for her future. All in all, not too bad here.

Post break, Shaq is loaded into an ambulance. Tony Schiavone goes to ask someone a question but Shaq has disappeared.

Rey Fenix/Pac vs. John Skyler/D3

Skyler gets kicked in the head a lot to start and D3 is kicked out to the floor. Pac nails the running flip dive and it's a 450 to crush Skyler. The over the shoulder piledriver finishes Skyler at 1:08. Now THAT was a good looking squash.

Here is the Inner Circle for Chris Jericho/MJF's press conference. We can't hear the first question, but Jericho clarifies that it was about what the Tag Team Titles mean to

the two of them. Jericho lost the World Title a year ago but then he has won seven Tag Team Titles in his career. He has teamed with Dwayne Johnson and Paul Wight, but none of them compare to MJF. Next up is Conrad Thompson (how in the world did it take him so long to get on this show) who asks if Sammy Guevara can be back in the team.

MJF and Jericho refuse to answer and throw Thompson out so we can get on to the next question. They don't want to hear about Papa Buck either because he got blood on MJF's custom suit. He doesn't shop at Target (cue the TARGET chant) and if you thought what he did to Papa Buck was bad, wait until he gets skinny Matt and balding Nick on Sunday. Santana tells the Bucks to do better...and now Eric Bischoff is up to ask a question.

Bischoff asks if they know anything about Papa Buck's condition and wants to know how smart it is to motivate the Young Bucks like that. Jericho tells him to shut up but here are the Young Bucks to interrupt. They talk about how great of a father they have and everything he taught them over the years. He did everything that MJF and Jericho's fathers failed at, like building them a wrestling ring when he couldn't send them to college. That's the kind of work ethic that made the two of them and this company.

If not for them, MJF would be living at home and waiting for the Rosie O'Donnell Show to call and Jericho would be jerking the curtain at the Performance Center. Some superkicks put the Inner Circle down and Brandon Cutler comes out to help with the fight. Cue the Good Brothers with a table on the stage with Nick splashing Ortiz while Matt dives onto Santana on a table at ringside. Some of the verbal jabs were awesome (the Performance Center one made my mouth pop open) but the Bucks trying to be intimidating or serious is still really not their forte.

Video on the exploding barbed wire deathmatch, with various

people talking about it, capped off by Atsushi Onita making a cameo to talk about how great it is. JR explains the idea and we see Kenny Omega hammering on the Moxley Extermination Chamber. Thankfully Excalibur does explain who Onita is after the video is over.

FTR/Tully Blanchard vs. Jurassic Express

JJ Dillon is here with FTR/Tully (all wearing old NWA title belts). A bit of shoving sets up a six way staredown before Jungle Boy comes in to dropkick FTR. Tully (in what looks like a bowler's attire) teases coming in but thinks better of it, leaving Sax to get pulled into the Snare Trap. That's broken up in a hurry so Boy grabs it on Cash on the floor. Cash taps but the distraction lets Dillon slip Dax the shoe (!) to knock Boy silly for two. Tully comes in and teases a dive but stops to strut instead.

We take a break and come back with Cash breaking up Boy's hot tag attempt but a Vader Bomb hits raised boots. The hot tag brings in Luchasaurus to clean house on FTR so Tully comes in....and goes right back out. Marko gets tossed into Blanchard to knock him down but FTR kicks Luchasaurus down. Luchasaurus suplexes both of them at once and Boy hurricanranas Dax into a powerslam from Luchasaurus.

A heck of a tornado DDT takes Luchasaurus down on the floor and it's a PowerPlex for two on Boy. Cash hits a German suplex for the same but it's Tully with the slingshot suplex to Stunt. Luchasaurus Tail Whips Tully down and Boy loads up a dive but a masked man in a hoodie breaks it up. Whoever it is nails Luchasaurus with something and the spike piledriver is enough for Tully to get the pin at 11:24.

Rating: B-. This could have been a heck of a lot worse and Tully still knows how to play to a crowd like the old school master that he is. Seeing the slingshot suplex was great too and while they had a few too many things going on here, it was

nice to have a bit of a Horsemen reunion without going too far with it. Nice enough here and seeing Stunt get beaten up is always fun.

Post match...it's Shawn Spears under the mask. Everyone poses together and here's Arn Anderson to give them the Horsemen sign, with Dillon and Tully returning it.

Schiavone brings out Paul Wight for his official Dynamite debut. Wight says raise your hand if you saw this coming. He's glad to be here and is glad to come back to TNT after all this time. Wight puts over Elevation and talks about how much he's ready to watch some amazing talent. With an arm on Schiavone's shoulders, Wight promises that AEW is signing a Hall of Fame worthy talent this Sunday. Tune in to find out who it is.

Women's Eliminator Tournament Final: Nyla Rose vs. Ryo Mizunami

Vickie Guerrero is here with Nyla and the winner gets Hikaru Shida, also at ringside, for the title at Revolution. Rose drives her into the ropes to start but gets forearmed in the head. Some more forearms rock Rose, who is back with a hard shoulder to take her down. A backdrop breaks up the Beast Bomb and it's time for some pantomime, followed by a running elbow getting two on Rose.

Rose is back with a running flip dive for her own two and a powerslam is good for the same. Back from a break with Mizunami avoiding a Swanton which would have barely grazed her if she hadn't moved an inch. A running shoulder to the ribs knocks Rose off the apron and the guillotine legdrop on the apron crushes her again. Rose dives back in at nine so Mizunami hits a quick middle rope legdrop.

Back up and Rose forearmed her in the head and nails a Death Valley Driver for two. Mizunami gets draped over the top rope and a knee to the head gets two more. An exploder suplex gives Mizunami two but Rose catches her on top with a superplex.

It's Mizunami up first with a spear and the guillotine legdrop finishes Rose at 12:48.

Rating: B-. Not a bad power match with Mizunami getting the win, thereby giving us one thing that we know about her. The tournament was quite the way to set up a #1 contender for a champion who has held the title WAY too long, but I'll take someone new over Riho or Rose again. Now just change the title already, as it is long overdue.

Post match Shida comes in for a handshake but they wind up slugging it out, with Shida getting the better of things.

Tony Schiavone brings out Sting for a chat. Sting talks about how the powerbomb from Brian Cage didn't tickle but it shook the rust off. Now he's ready for a street fight but here's Ricky Starks to interrupt. Starks respects him and then slaps him, meaning it's time for Sting to hammer away. The Stinger Splash into the Scorpion Deathlock is on but here are Hook and Powerhouse Hobbs to jump Sting.

That's broken up but Brian Cage comes down and loads up another powerbomb, only to have Darby Allin make the save (why Cage stopped to load up the powerbomb when Allin's music hit isn't clear). House is cleaned (with Cage making sure to look over his shoulder for the Stinger Splash) with Sting and Allin standing tall.

Face Of The Revolution Qualifying Match: 10 vs. Max Caster

Scorpio Sky is on commentary and Caster raps his way to the ring. 10 grabs a headlock to start and hits a crossbody for two. The right hands in the corner set up a running clothesline to the floor but Caster manages to post him for a breather. We take a break and come back with 10 hammering away, including a spinebuster. The slingshot spear gives 10 two more but Caster is back with a quick brainbuster. A top rope elbow misses for Caster but here's Jack Evans with a boom box to the head to give Caster the pin at 8:47.

Rating: C-. This wasn't exactly thrilling stuff as it felt like a quick way to get someone into the ladder match. The Acclaimed haven't done much for me but maybe having Caster in there can be his big breakout moment. I'm not sure who is going to win the thing but at least there are some interesting options.

Post match here's Matt Hardy to give Evans \$4,200 for taking out part of the Dark Order.

Miro says Chuck Taylor has made him do this and on Sunday, it's GAME OVER.

We run down the Revolution card.

Matt Hardy/Marq Quen vs. John Silver/Hangman Page

Page thinks we need to go to Adampagewrestling.com, which takes you to two hours of relaxing guitar music and shots of horses. Silver headlocks Matt to start but it's quickly off to Page, who sends Hardy running. We take a break and come back with Hardy getting two on Silver and grabbing a chinlock. That's broken up and Page gets the hot tag, sending Hardy bailing to the floor.

This time Page gets his hands on him so Hardy uses Quen as the sacrificial lamb. Back in and Quen dropkicks Page's knee out, allowing Matt to come in with a neckbreaker. Page isn't having that and brings Silver back in to clean house in a hurry. A spear sets up Page's Buckshot Lariat to finish Quen at 11:03.

Rating: C. Well that happened. It's pretty weird for AEW to have such a lame main event as this felt like it should have been somewhere in the middle of the show. It wasn't a bad match or anything but it's the kind of match that really didn't feel like it belonged in the main event slot. Matt Hardy continues to be one of those guys that makes me sigh when he is in a match. I know whey he is on TV so much but that doesn't make it much better.

Post match Hardy jumps Page with the microphone and promises to win. Cue the Dark Order, plus all of the other teams in the battle royal. Death Triangle comes out to join the fray to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This is a show where the total absolutely does not equal the sum of its parts. The first hour or so of this was one of the most energized things I've seen in wrestling in a long time as it just felt important. Starting with the Shaq match was an interesting way to go and following it up with the hot squash kept my attention. I liked this show quite a bit and while the second hour wasn't as strong, it certainly wasn't terrible. Very good show here with some especially great energy.

Results

Jade Cargill/Shaquille O'Neal b. Cody Rhodes/Red Velvet – Glam Slam to Velvet

Rey Fenix/Pac b. D3/John Skyler – Over the shoulder piledriver to Skyler

FTR/Tully Blanchard b. Jurassic Express – Spike piledriver to Luchasaurus

Ryo Mizunami b. Nyla Rose – Guillotine legdrop

Max Caster b. 10 – Boom box to the head

Hangman Page/John Silver b. Matt Hardy/Marq Quen – Buckshot lariat to Quen

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New Column: Smile, Darn Ya Smile

Yes she needs to also.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-smile-darn-ya-smile/>

Main Event – February 25, 2021: Only Half

Main Event

Date: February 25, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Samoa Joe

It's time for a post pay per view edition of the show, meaning that for the sake of this episode, Main Event does not exist. I'm not sure what this is going to include, but odds are there are going to be some Elimination Chambers included. Or is it an Elimination Chamber included because it's the same Chamber

in two different matches? Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Mansoor vs. Drew Gulak

I guess this is an upgrade over 205 Live. Mansoor starts fast with a rollup but has to slip out of a rear naked choke. An armbar has Gulak in more trouble and a standing moonsault gives Mansoor two. Gulak knocks him down though and we hit the chinlock, meaning commentary has to talk about what else is coming tonight. Mansoor fights up without much effort and hits a dropkick, followed by a middle rope bulldog. The slingshot neckbreaker finishes Gulak at 5:05.

Rating: C-. Mansoor continues to be a rather fun guy to watch and I have no idea why he has been banished to 205 Live for so long. He could easily hang on a show like this or maybe even NXT but instead we have seen him around about once a year on a show bigger than 205 Live. This worked out well enough but it needed a little more spice.

Video on Drew McIntyre retaining the WWE Title inside the Elimination Chamber, getting jumped by Bobby Lashley and the Miz cashing in Money in the Bank.

From Raw.

It's time for MizTV, Championship Edition, with all kinds of pyro and balloons. Miz is VERY pleased with having the title back because he is the star that stayed. Want to see Batista? Go watch a buddy cop movie. John Cena? He's doing a commercial. Miz is a bigger star than all of them, including Edge. If Edge is playing high stakes poker, this title is Miz's royal flush. Miz is holding this title because he deserves it...and here's the Hurt Business (with Bobby Lashley in a light pink suit) to interrupt.

MVP talks about how Miz omitted Lashley's involvement but Miz says he was ready to get to that. That's not good enough for MVP, because there was a deal last night: Miz gets the title and Lashley gets the first title shot. Miz says that's true, but Miz never said when he gets the title shot. There just isn't time right now, so Lashley grabs him by the tie and says Miz has one more hour. If Miz makes the wrong decision, he's going to be in a new reality series called "How Bobby Lashley Sent Me To The Emergency Room." Either way, Lashley is getting that title and it's going to be awesome.

Rhea Ripley is coming to Raw.

We look at Lacey Evans announcing she her pregnancy.

From Raw.

Shayna Baszler/Nia Jax vs. Asuka/Charlotte

Non-title. Asuka starts fast with an Octopus on Shayna, who reverses into a Stretch Muffler. That's reversed into an armbar which is broken as well so it's off to Charlotte to strike away at Jax. Everything breaks down with Jax and Baszler being knocked outside as we take a break. Back with Shayna kicking Asuka down and stepping on her face. The big stomp to the arm misses though and Asuka gets over for the tag to Charlotte. Everything breaks down and Charlotte gets to clean house with a big boot to Shayna but Jax powerbombs her down for two.

The chinlock goes on before Baszler comes in to work on the arm. That doesn't last long so Jax comes back in, allowing Charlotte to hit a weird looking hurricanrana into the corner. The Figure Four has Baszler in trouble but Jax makes the save with the legdrop. Charlotte gets over to Asuka to start cleaning house but the Asuka Lock is broken up by Charlotte's missed big boot. Jax drops the leg for the pin at 12:31.

Rating: D+. I wasn't feeling this one whatsoever as it was

awkward in multiple parts and felt like they were in different books. I'm not sure why Charlotte kicking Asuka in the face by mistake is supposed to be some big moment, but WWE has a history of thinking Charlotte is a bit more important than most others do. Pretty off match and hopefully it's the last time we have to see it.

Post match Asuka isn't pleased and Charlotte walks off. That would seem to be a stake in the heart of the partnership after....uh....about two months.

From Raw again.

Charlotte is with Ric Flair in the back and says she can't do this anymore. She can't keep focusing on Ric because it is affecting her career. Last week he was out there pretending the baby was his and it's costing them their legacy. She tells him to go home but Ric says that he never said it was his baby and he saw potential in Lacey. Charlotte: "You see potential in a lot of blondes."

Flair talks about how he had a bit of a hand in making Charlotte what she is today and wanting to expand their brand. Charlotte says Ric just wants to be the Nature Boy and all he cares about is himself, leaving him rather sad. I'm sick of this story, but they absolutely nailed the emotions here and Flair's explanation did make sense.

We look at stills of Riddle winning the US Title and Roman Reigns retaining the Universal Title over Daniel Bryan, who had just won the Elimination Chamber. Then Edge speared Reigns to set up the already obvious Wrestlemania title match.

Elias/Jaxson Ryker vs. Akira Tozawa/Humberto Carrillo

Elias shoulders Carrillo down to start and hands it off to Ryker. That works a bit better for Carrillo, who hits a high crossbody and brings Tozawa in. Tozawa sends Elias over the top and hits a kick to the face, followed by the big dive.

Carrillo knocks Ryker outside with him and we take a break.

Back with Tozawa hitting a top rope back elbow for two on Elias but Ryker comes in with a spinebuster. The sitout chokeslam gives Elias two and the chinlock goes on. That's broken up in a hurry and it's off to Carrillo to kick Elias in the head. Ryker is knocked to the floor but Elias is back up with a jumping knee for two on Carrillo. Tozawa dropkicks Ryker down but he pops up for the swinging Boss Man Slam for the pin at 9:35.

Rating: C. This was better than I would have expected and part of that is due to how it felt like something new. It was nice to throw something together like an old Superstars match, which is almost always going to work. If nothing else, Elias and Ryker needed a win as it's not like the team has exactly done much so far.

From Raw.

Here's Adam Pearce to bring out Lashley (in gear) and MVP, followed by Miz (in his suit) and John Morrison. Miz says he needs more time to make a decision because so many people want their chance. MVP doesn't want to hear it but Miz asks for a week. Cue Braun Strowman to say he deserves a shot but Pearce and Shane McMahon have something against him. He is far more "clarified" to face Miz than Lashley, which is all the opening Miz needs to try and stir the pot.

MVP isn't having that but here's Shane McMahon to interrupt. Shane says last night was about former WWE Champions rather than Universal Champions but Strowman says all of that sucks. He wants his match tonight but Shane thinks that idea sucks. Strowman says he wants to face Lashley tonight then, so Shane makes the match and let's sweeten the pot a bit: if Strowman wins, next week's title match is a triple threat. Reality sets in on Miz in a hurry but Strowman yells at Shane, allowing Lashley to take out Strowman's knee.

And once more from Raw.

Braun Strowman vs. Bobby Lashley

If Strowman wins, next week's title match is a triple threat. Miz is on commentary as Strowman runs Lashley over to start. Lashley is sent outside but avoids a charge into the steps. Back in and Strowman counters the Hurt Lock and hits the running powerslam for a near fall. Lashley manages a heck of a spinebuster for two and then cuts Strowman down with the spear for the pin at 3:15.

Rating: C. They were very smart to keep this short because these two could have gotten in trouble going long. I'm rather surprised by the result as it's not often that the win and in stipulation doesn't work. The title match next week should be good, if nothing else for seeing how many ways there are to go.

Post match Lashley puts Strowman in the Hurt Lock so Miz comes in with the title...and gets planted with a spinebuster. Lashley picks up the title and poses to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. Again, it's one of those shows that is only going to include Raw and that makes for a pretty weird show. It was nice to have something thrown in from the pay per view but that does not exactly make up for the rest of the show. You can only get so much out of the Raw recap because Raw isn't much to see most of the time. That and I just watched Raw a few days ago, making this a bit much to take. The original stuff was ok but that's wasn't quite enough.

Ring Of Honor TV – February 24, 2021: They Needed To Feel Important

Ring of Honor

Date: February 24, 2021

Location: UMBC Event Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're getting a big title match this week as the Six Man Tag Team Titles are on the line. Yeah I barely remember that the things are around either but Ring of Honor needs them because...I have no idea most of the time actually. Anyway it's time for Shane Taylor Promotions to go after the belts in what should be a good match. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and recaps Shane Taylor Promotions not getting their title shot at Final Battle due to Coronavirus issues. They turned down the titles to tonight is their shot.

Here's what's coming this week and next week.

La Faccion Ingobernable vs. Briscoes

That would be Kenny King and Dragon Lee, with Amy Rose, for La Faccion and this is a #1 contenders match. Kenny and Mark start things off with King headlocking him to the mat in a hurry. A Japanese armdrag into an armbar has Mark in more trouble until he fights up without much trouble. Jay and Lee come in with the former blasting him with a shoulder. Lee pops back to his feet and snaps off a hurricanrana as Jay isn't sure what to do with someone so fast.

Mark comes back in for the exchange of chops but gets taken into the wrong corner for some clubberin. That doesn't matter very much as it's back to Jay, who slams Kenny on the floor. The Cactus Elbow connects and we take a break. Back with Mark escaping the Royal Flush and a double clothesline giving us a double knockdown. It's back to Lee, who gets kicked in the face by Jay. Lee is up all over again and takes out Jay's knee, only to get caught with a Death Valley Driver.

King catches Jay on the top and Lee hits the Alberto double stomp for two more. Kenny's bridging t-bone suplex sets up a leglock with Mark having to make a save. Back up and it's a double slugout with Lee hitting a running German suplex into a jumping knee into a reverse hurricanrana to drop Mark. Lee's hurricanrana is countered though and Jay's neckbreaker connects. The Froggy Bow is loaded up but here's Flip Gordon to kick him down, allowing Kenny to get the rollup pin at 11:15.

Rating: B. While it wasn't quite the Briscoes vs. Flamita/Bandido classic, it was one of the better matches that the company has had since their comeback. Lee is on another planet, King is more than good enough and the Briscoes are the Briscoes. This was a case where it wasn't would this be good but rather how great would it be and they managed to deliver rather well.

Post match EC3 is back to say that since honor can be bought, honor cannot be real. EC3 respects Jay because he is the kind of man who does everything he is supposed to do. He even envies Jay but after everything he has done, what is next for Jay? EC3 says he is free and now Jay controls his narrative. I think I remember why I didn't miss EC3 around here.

Mike Bennett vs. Bateman

Bennett's ankle is still banged up coming in and this is under relaxed rules. Bennett charges straight at him and knocks

Bateman out to the floor in a hurry. That's fine with Bennett, who follows him outside to keep up the shots to the head. Vida Von Starr offers a distraction though and Bennett misses a charge into the barricade. Bateman drops him chest first onto the apron and there's a catapult to send Bennett throat first into the ring structure.

We take a break and come back with Bennett hitting a ripcord elbow but getting suplexed down hard. A superkick into a discus lariat gives Bennett two and it's time for the big chop off. An exchange of forearms puts both of them down until Bennett is up first. The superkick is blocked and Bateman hits a discus forearm for two. This Is A Kill is broken up though and Bateman hits a spear into a piledriver for the pin at 10:03.

Rating: C. This didn't have the same level of charisma as something with Matt Taven and Vincent but for a side feud based off of that, everything worked out well enough here. Bennett is already being treated as a much bigger and better deal around here so at least they are doing something with him for a change. Bateman is fine for a monster, but this just made me want to see Vincent more.

Post match here's Matt Taven to jump Bateman and it's time to go for the leg, complete with the block of wood. Taven tells Vincent that this will happen unless he gets the match he wants. Vincent says no so Bateman's ankle is crushed.

Video on Shane Taylor vs. Rush for the World Title next week.

Six Man Tag Team Titles: Shane Taylor Promotions vs. Mexisquad

Shane Taylor/the Soldiers of Savagery are challenging and Maria Kanellis-Bennett is on commentary. Hands are shaken but the fight is on in a hurry with everyone going to the floor. Back in and Flamita ducks Khan's running big boot in the corner, allowing Flamita to hit a quick takeover. A dropkick puts Khan down again but he powers Flamita into the corner,

allowing the tag off to Moses.

That means a big running charge takes Flamita over (commentary is rather pleased) but he's right back up with a twisting Stunner. Shane comes in to chase Rey Horus around until a shot to Shane's face sends us to a break. Back with Bandido getting the hot tag to come in and hammer on Shane. That's fine with Taylor, who shoves him into the corner for the tag off to Flamita. A walk across Bandido's shoulders sets up a running hurricanrana with the champs sending all of them outside. That means trio of dives, followed by a trio of flips to take them down again.

Back in and a 450 gets two on Shane as commentary tries to figure out if the champs winning can be an upset. Flamita flips Bandido around to take out Khan's legs, because that's just something he can do. One heck of a toss splash gives Flamita two on Moses with Khan making the save. Horus accidentally DDT's Flamita and Moses nails a double clothesline to the floor. That leaves Shane to Rock Bottom Flamita into a splash for two and Welcome To The Land gives us new champions at 12:32.

Rating: C+. This wasn't quite the level of awesome that you expect from the Mexisquad but they have been champions for so long and I don't think that a single loss is going to change anything for them in the long run. What matters here is that we have some fresh champions, which probably needed to happen after the long layoff. Throw in Shane getting a big win before next week's World Title match and it is a rather well put together title match.

Overall Rating: B-. It was certainly an eventful show and that is something that this company has been needing for the time being. The title change alone, even if it is with the least important title in the promotion, made the show feel more important. That is in addition to a pretty awesome opener and there wasn't much you could ask for in a slightly bigger than

usual show.

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205 Live – February 26, 2021: Yeah That

205 Live

Date: February 26, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

Another week, another 205 Live and I'm not sure how excited I can be about that. Hopefully this week winds up being a little better than usual because there isn't much else to say about the whole thing. You never know what you might get out of this week's show, but there is always a potential upside to the whole thing. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Mansoor/Curt Stallion vs. Ever-Rise

Stallion and Martel start things off with Parker taking him up

against the ropes and then getting in a shove. That earns Martel a headlock takeover and then a shoulder gives Stallion one. It's off to Mansoor vs. Parker as we continue the back to back first gears. Parker grabs a headlock but Mansoor reverses into one of his own. Stallion comes back in to keep up the headlocking and an elbow to the face gets two. It's already back to Mansoor for two off a suplex, followed by a double armdrag to put both of them down at once.

Hold on though as here are the Bollywood Boyz to give Ever-Rise a pep talk, despite Ever-Rise not seeming interesting. Back in and a blind tag lets Martel come back in to powerbomb Mansoor and another blind tag lets Martel break up a sunset flip. Parker misses a step up elbow drop though and Stallion comes back in to start cleaning house. Stallion's top rope splash hits raised knees as everything breaks down. Sweet Taste drops Mansoor and there's a big boot to Stallion. Not that it matters though as the Boyz accidentally distract Parker and Mansoor grabs a rollup for the pin at 9:33.

Rating: C. This was fine again but the big question now is where we go with the Boyz vs. Ever-Rise. They have been doing these things for months now but with nothing in the way of a big show, it can be hard to figure out where this kind of thing is going to end. I'm sure the blowoff match is going to work well, though I'm not sure where it is actually going to take place.

We look back at Ariya Daivari and Tony Nese attacking August Grey and then beating him in last week's main event.

Tony Nese vs. August Grey

Ariya Daivari and Jake Atlas are here too. Nese takes him down by the leg to start but gets reversed into an armbar. That's broken up for a standoff and it's Grey grabbing a slam but having to go after Daivari. Nese's baseball slide doesn't work but he gets in a cheap shot to the throat to take over. Back

in and the Lionsault gets two so Grey is right back up with the spinning high crossbody for two of his own.

Nese grabs the gutwrench powerslam to take over again and we hit the bodyscissors. That doesn't work either as Grey fights up with a jawbreaker into a neckbreaker. Nese catches him on the top but misses the 450. That's enough to get Daivari on the apron so Grey can be tossed outside, meaning Daivari knocks Atlas silly. There's the suicide dive from Grey to take out Nese and it's So Much Prettier to finish Nese at 7:13.

Rating: C. Another completely watchable match which isn't exactly something I would want to see again, or that I'm going to remember in the next five minutes or so. That is the problem with most of the matches on this show and that was the problem again here. I'm sure that is going to set up another tag match or something, because that's how these shows always work on this show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was one of those shows that wasn't exactly thrilling and didn't make me want to keep watching in the future. That's a common problem on this show and it keeps happening time after time. What on here is supposed to make me come back? The low level tag teams fighting each other? Another old vs. new tag match? I'd hope they can come up with something better, but I've been waiting for that one way too long now.

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Monday Night Raw – March 1, 2021: This Time For Sure

Monday Night Raw

Date: March 1, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Samoa Joe, Tom Phillips

It's a title night as we have the Miz's first WWE Title defense against Bobby Lashley. This is an interesting one as it is hard to imagine Miz walking into Wrestlemania as champion, but at the same time they're almost telegraphing the title change too hard. Drew McIntyre is back tonight too and that is likely to be a factor. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a long recap of the setup of the title match.

Here's Drew McIntyre to open things up. It has been a rough month for him and we'll start with his issues with Sheamus. They were friends for twenty years until Sheamus turned on him, though Drew is still not sure why. Then two weeks ago at Elimination Chamber (it wasn't two weeks ago), Drew defended his title inside the Chamber but got attacked by Bobby Lashley. That let the Miz cash in Money in the Bank, because THE FREAKING MIZ is WWE Champion. It's cool though, because his mission is clear: get the title back and main event Wrestlemania. He didn't come that far to lose here so get out here Sheamus, because you're the first step.

Cue the Miz and John Morrison, with Miz demanding his big, special introduction, complete with pyro. Miz brags about winning Money in the Bank and saying it was a matter of time

before he became WWE Champion. McIntyre agrees and wants a hug but Miz turns him down, knowing that McIntyre isn't happy with this. The only person McIntyre can blame is...Bobby Lashley!

McIntyre isn't buying it so Miz says that he himself is the real victim. He has a wife and two daughters and Lashley threatened him at Elimination Chamber. Miz had no choice but to make that deal and now Lashley has a title shot instead of McIntyre. So maybe Miz and McIntyre should join forces as the 3MBIGOS!

Cue MVP, now on a cane, to interrupt to ask if this is the beginning of a new business arrangement or just desperation to keep Miz's title. McIntyre says he didn't fall for that but MVP says he is here for a reason: Miz vs. Lashley begins promptly at 9pm, so Miz has less than an hour. Miz isn't happy but here's Sheamus to face McIntyre, who wants to fight instead of talk. The brawl is on in the aisle with McIntyre knocking him over the barricade and we take a break before the match starts. I can go for this "we're doing X at Y time" as it's so, so nice to have some kind of a structure around here.

Sheamus vs. Drew McIntyre

It's a brawl to start with McIntyre hammering away and elbowing him in the face. The referee has McIntyre back off and Sheamus knocks him down for a change, setting up a middle rope knee drop for two. McIntyre fights out of an armbar and stomps on the face before whipping Sheamus hard into the corner. Sheamus picks him up by the leg though and puts him down, only to get caught in the ropes for the ten forearms to the chest. You don't rip off a signature move like that though so Sheamus puts him in the ropes for forearms to the chest and back.

The Brogue Kick puts McIntyre on the floor and we take a break. Back with Sheamus working on an armbar with a knee on McIntyre's face. The Irish Curse gets two and we hit the

reverse chinlock with a knee in McIntyre's back. The comeback lets McIntyre get up and they fight to the floor, with Sheamus being suplexed onto the announcers' table (Tom: "This is gnarly!"). McIntyre backdrops him onto the announcers' table again and nails a top rope clothesline back inside.

Sheamus hits his own clothesline and goes up but McIntyre nips up. The Glasgow Kiss rocks Sheamus and a belly to belly superplex takes us to a break. Back with McIntyre hitting a spinebuster for two but getting kneed in the face for the same. White Noise gives Sheamus two more and he sends McIntyre face first into the buckle.

McIntyre is back up again though and it's a super White Noise to plant Sheamus hard (with the referee immediately checking on him) for two. Sheamus is fine enough to catch him with an Alabama Slam out of the corner for his own two and they're both down. It's Sheamus up first so he loads up the Brogue Kick, only to have Drew Claymore him first for the pin at 23:05.

Rating: B+. These two beat the fire out of each other and it was all about two guys hitting each other really, really hard for a long time. You don't see a Raw match get this time a lot of the time but they made it work really well. This was pay per view quality so seeing it on TV in a big time match made me smile a lot. I was worried they would have built this up for months and then not gone anywhere with it so well done on doing this here.

Post match we get the respectful staredown.

Nia Jax stares Naomi down in the back.

Naomi vs. Nia Jax

Lana and Shayna Baszler are here too. Nia runs her over to start and we're already in the bearhug. With Naomi mostly done, the Samoan drop and powerbomb finish her off in a hurry

at 2:20. Total and complete squash.

Rhea Ripley is coming.

Raw World Title: The Miz vs. Bobby Lashley

Lashley is challenging...but hang on because Miz has a rather bad stomach cramp and can't see himself going to the ring right now. Adam Pearce doesn't buy this but here's Lashley to jump Miz. John Morrison: "SOMEBODY GET A TOWEL!" Lashley leaves him laying, but Pearce says Miz will defend the title at 10:00pm instead.

Here's Braun Strowman for a chant before his match. He knows that Shane McMahon and Adam Pearce have a conspiracy against him. It started when he headbutted Pearce but then he wasn't allowed in the Elimination Chamber, which sucked without him. Cue Shane and Pearce with Shane saying that he knows Braun is upset. This is all about conflict management though and the key is communication.

That's why Strowman needs to know that it was Shane making this tag match tonight, because Pearce had nothing to do with it. Tonight, Strowman gets to team with WWE management, meaning Adam Pearce. They can do great things, and tonight they can win the Tag Team Titles! Strowman likes the idea but threatens Pearce with violence if he screws this up.

Tag Team Titles: Braun Strowman/Adam Pearce vs. Hurt Business

Strowman and Pearce are challenging and Strowman starts fast by cleaning house of the champs. Shelton Benjamin is crushed on the floor and Cedric Alexander is whipped hard into the corner. Strowman stands on Alexander's chest and then sends him flying for a really big crash.

The running shoulder hits the post though (he's really, really bad at that) and it's Shelton coming in with a running knee to the face. Strowman fights off both champions without much

effort though and there's the running powerslam to Benjamin. Shane gets on the apron and demands Pearce get the tag (Pearce: "WHY??? IT'S OVER!")....so Shelton rolls Pearce up to retain at 3:14.

Rating: D+. This was one hundred percent an angle rather than a match and that's ok. Pearce was only there to keep setting up Strowman vs. McMahon at Wrestlemania, which is not exactly the kind of match that is going to draw much interest. I'm rather glad they didn't change the titles here and while it didn't make the champs look great, it could have been worse.

Strowman is livid and storms to the back.

Elias and Jaxson Ryker come up to Damien Priest and Bad Bunny with a musical proposal. A collaboration is proposed because the two of them could be bigger than the Beatles. Bunny smirks a bit, which has Elias excited, but Priest translates to "that's a no".

Here are Elias and Jaxson Ryker for some music before Elias' match, but Elias is not pleased with his lack of a Grammy nomination. That's like Tom Brady not getting an ESPY nomination! Elias is ready to perform but gets cut off as usual.

Elias vs. Damien Priest

Jaxson Ryker and Grammy nominee Bad Bunny are here too. Priest powers him into the corner to start and grabs an armbar. The standing and seated version have Elias in trouble for a bit, followed by a spinwheel kick to make it worse. Elias bails to the floor to yell at Bunny and we take a break.

Back with Priest working on another armbar but Elias manages to send him throat first into the rope to escape. A running boot in the corner rocks Priest again and a running clothesline gives Elias two. Elias gets in a cheap shot from the floor and the chinlock goes on. Priest fights up again and

strikes away, setting up the Broken Arrow for two of his own.

A rollup gives Priest two more but he gets kicked to the ropes, only to dive into a jumping knee to the face. Drift Away is countered but Elias fires off some forearms to the back. Priest doesn't seem to mind as he kicks Elias in the head and Hit The Lights finishes for Priest at 15:20.

Rating: C-. This was far longer than it needed to be but Priest overcoming some cheating and winning in the end is all that matters. Priest is someone with a lot of potential and it seems that WWE is actually going with that for a change. Bad Bunny is the star for now, but Priest is the star for later and it is nice to see WWE doing something with that.

We look at the opening video on Miz vs. Lashley again and the first attempt at the match.

Randy Orton isn't sure what is going on with the Fiend but knows Alexa Bliss is playing a part in it. After looking at what Bliss has been doing lately and talking about the Fiend returning, Bliss interrupts the interview and talks to a Jack-In-The Box about bringing the Fiend back. Before that though, there is something Orton should know. The screen goes nuts and a man in a hood comes up. That's Orton, who talks to Randy (yes that's right) and says this doesn't end on his terms. Soon, Randy will come face to face with everything he has ever done. The real Orton starts coughing and the evil one stares at him. And moving on.

Raw World Title: The Miz vs. Bobby Lashley

Miz, with John Morrison, is defending and actually comes into the arena this time. Before the bell, Miz tries to talk Lashley into waiting for Wrestlemania but that isn't happening. The bell rings, Miz drops to the floor, grabs the title and sprints to the back for the countout at 29 seconds. Well at least they didn't waste time.

Post break Shane McMahon tells MVP and Lashley that there will be a title match tonight. MVP: "THIS IS BULL****!" If Miz tries something else, Shane will consider stripping Miz of the title.

Here's Charlotte for a chat before her match (because everyone has something to say this week). She came back to be Asuka's partner and didn't want to be in the Raw Women's Title picture. Asuka has worked so hard to be champion for the last six months, but Bianca Belair chose to face Sasha Banks at Wrestlemania. That leaves Asuka alone, so Charlotte wants the title shot. Asuka isn't here though because Shayna Baszler kicked her tooth out last week. She knows Asuka will be back but here are Baszler and Nia Jax to interrupt.

Baszler laughs off the idea of hurting Asuka and Nia says no one likes Charlotte. She needs to understand that they are the real power around here. Charlotte knows everyone wants her gone but people don't have to call her the best of all time. Instead, they just call her Charlotte.

Shayna Baszler vs. Charlotte

Charlotte starts swinging before the bell but Nia jumps her from behind. We take a break and come back joined in progress with Baszler hammering away in the corner. Charlotte comes back with the fall away slam and some chops but the Figure Four is broken up with a kick to the floor. Jax's charge hits the steps and Charlotte counters the Kirifuda Clutch. Natural Selection finishes Baszler at 2:55.

So Charlotte got jumped before the match, shrugged it off, got rid of Jax, countered Baszler's finisher and won clean in about seven minutes max (assuming the bell rang as soon as they went to a break) to survive the Tag Team Champions on her own. Yeah, it must be Wrestlemania season if Charlotte has the Supergirl cape on again. Oh and this is the second time these two have ever had a singles match (with the first ending in 56

seconds when Nia interfered). What a great way to have a dream match go down for the first time.

Shane McMahon confirms that Miz either has to fight or Lashley is the new champion.

Riddle/Lucha House Party vs. Retribution

T-Bar starts fast with a chokebreaker for two on Riddle ten seconds in. Mace comes in with Mass Effect for two, followed by another backbreaker from T-Bar for two. Riddle gets up and makes the hot tag off to Dorado to pick up the pace, setting up a very fast tag to Metalik. An elbow off of Dorado's shoulders finishes T-Bar at 2:05 in another fast match.

Post match Mustafa Ali yells at Retribution and at Riddle, which means we're not done yet.

Riddle vs. Mustafa Ali

Non-title and Ali starts fast by working on Riddle's arm. A dropkick to the arm and a running neckbreaker gets two. It's back to the arm with a Fujiwara armbar as we get another countdown to Lashley vs. Miz, telling you that this match isn't lasting long. Riddle pulls him into a choke but gets reversed into a cradle for two. Back up and Riddle kicks him in the head, setting up the running forearms in the corner. The Broton gets two more on Ali but Slapjack gets on the apron for a distraction. Mace does the same and Ali hits kind of a reverse super X Factor for the pin at 3:17.

Rating: C-. Well I'll give them credit: they waited a full eight days before having the new champion take a pin. At least it wasn't clean and Ali might be able to get a bit of a boost out of this, but I have no reason to believe Retribution is going anywhere out of this. Hopefully Riddle can rebound soon, because he needs to rebound eight days after becoming US Champion.

Miz comes in to see Shane McMahon and complain about what is happening. He wants to know what kind of match it is going to be, but Shane isn't sure yet. That sends Miz further over the edge as he talks about everything he can do for the company, only to get this treatment. Shane says good luck, champ.

Raw World Title: The Miz vs. Bobby Lashley

Miz is defending and here's Shane McMahon to make it a lumberjack match. The bell rings and Miz tries a belt shot but Lashley pulls it away. With Lashley looking ready to end him, Miz heads to the apron, only to come back in for a shot to the face. That sends Miz bailing to the floor and tries to bribe the lumberjacks but gets tossed back in.

Lashley blasts him with a clothesline and hits the shoulders in the corner before throwing Miz outside again. Retribution won't help him but the Hurt Business will throw him back inside. A Downward Spiral sets up right hands to Miz's head and Lashley presses him to the floor. Retribution throws him back in this time and there's the spinebuster. The Hurt Lock makes Lashley champion at 3:04.

Rating: D. They didn't have a choice here as it was either going to be here or at Fastlane. Lashley has been ready to be WWE Champion for the better part of twenty years now so finally giving him the title was the right call. You should know where this is going for Fastlane and Wrestlemania, but maybe now the freaking out over Miz winning the title can end.

Post match Lashley beats him down again and celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. The opener was good and the title change was important, but that more or less ends the positives on the show. It was a bad night for champions (four losses in the last five matches) and some of the things the show did made me glare at the screen for longer than I should have needed to. This show was kind of a mess, but they got the important parts

right. Now if only they could get the other stuff right too, they might be somewhere.

Results

Drew McIntyre b. Sheamus – Claymore

Nia Jax b. Naomi – Powerbomb

Hurt Business b. Adam Pearce/Braun Strowman – Small package to Pearce

Damien Priest b. Elias – Hit The Lights

Bobby Lashley b. The Miz via countout

Charlotte b. Shayna Baszler – Natural Selection

Riddle/Lucha House Party b. Retribution – Elbow drop to T-Bar

Mustafa Ali b. Riddle – Super head slam to the mat

Bobby Lashley b. The Miz – Hurt Lock

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Impact Wrestling – February 23, 2021: The Russo Style

Impact Wrestling

Date: February 23, 2021

Location: Skyway Studios, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: D'Lo Brown, Matt Striker

We're still starting the build to Rebellion but first up we need to get through another Impact Plus special. Things have changed around here though as for once that does not sound like the worst thing. I'm not sure what to expect here but last week's show was not the strongest in the world. Let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Opening sequence.

Jake Something vs. Deaner

Tables match. Deaner goes straight for the bite to the nose as commentary actually tries to compare the two of them. Jake is right back with a running clothesline to the back of the head and it's time for the first table. That takes a little too long though and the table is dropkicked into Jake's face. Jake fights back and puts the table over the middle rope in the corner, setting up a Michinoku Driver...in the middle of the ring instead of near the table.

Back up and Deaner avoids a charge to send Jake throat first into the edge of the table. Another table is bridged between the ring and the barricade and they fight to the apron. Jake is knocked to the floor and Deaner tries a flip dive, but Jake pulls it out of the air. With that broken up, Deaner rams the

edge of the bridged table into Jake's chest.

Deaner goes up top but Jake catches him, only to have Deaner escape a superplex attempt. A hair mare brings Jake down but he's right back with a sitout powerbomb. A powerslam off the steps is broken up so they head to the stage. The Deaner DDT is broken up as well, followed by a powerbomb being escaped as well. Jake staggers down the aisle so Deaner charges...right into a Black Hole Slam to give Jake the win at 9:41.

Rating: C. This was a decent enough tables match and I'm rather impressed by what the Deaners could pull off, as they went from insufferable to this in just a few months. I'm not needing to see these two again and Jake Something is the most indy name you could ask for, but at least they did something nice enough here.

Post match here's Moose to drive Jake through a table. Moose sits in a chair and says there is not going to be a show until Rich Swann comes out here. Post break, Moose is still waiting but here's Scott D'Amore instead. Moose isn't leaving, even when D'Amore says Swann isn't in the building. Cue Jake Something, with Moose telling him not to do this. D'Amore likes the idea though and yeah we will have a World Title match tonight because the TNA World Title is officially recognized again.

Commentary goes over what's coming tonight.

Trey Miguel/Willie Mack/Josh Alexander vs. Chris Bey/Ace Austin/Black Taurus

The winning team faces each other in a triple threat match next week to crown a new #1 contender (that's quite Russoish). Bey and Miguel start, with Striker saying they are the aces of the teams. As you try to get your head around that one, Trey takes Bey down by the arm to start. It's quickly off to Austin, with Striker not bothering to call him the Ace. Trey sends him into the corner so Mack can send him into the corner

as well.

Austin slips out of the swinging slam and it's Taurus coming in for the battle of the jumps/flips. A hurricanrana puts Taurus down and there's a dropkick into the corner. Alexander comes in for a Regal Roll but has to knock an invading Bey off the apron. That lets Taurus get up for some chops in the corner but Alexander is right back with his own. Taurus pops up and runs the corner for a twisting flip dive to drop Alexander though and we take a break.

Back with Bey's running hurricanrana being countered into a powerbomb backbreaker to give Alexander a breather. That's enough for the hot tag to Miguel to pick up the pace, including a jumping elbow to Austin's back for two. Everything breaks down with Alexander taking Bey down with a dive. Mack plants Austin and goes up, only to get crotched on top. The Fold drops Mack again but Miguel and Alexander make the double save.

A huge backbreaker plants Miguel but Alexander is right back up with a German suplex to Taurus. Austin counters the ankle lock and Bey plants Alexander with a slingshot DDT. Mack takes Bey down but has to bail out of the Six Star. A heck of a dropkick into the corner sets up the Art of Finesse to finish Mack at 10:50. Striker: "FINALLY!"

Rating: B-. Good action as expected, but I'm trying to figure out the FINALLY. What's worthy of a finally? Bey, who has already been X-Division Champion, has beaten Mack before and it's not like it's some big rivalry. Anyway, if Bey and company were going to win, Mack was the only one to take the fall so this works well enough. As per tradition, the X-Division works rather well.

The winners argue over who should win the triple threat.

A frustrated Trey Miguel walks to the back and Sami Callihan is waiting on him. Callihan asks if Trey is going to give up

again but Trey jumps him.

Flashback Moment of the Week: Decay retains the Tag Team Titles over the BroMans at Slammiversary 2016.

Decay talks about how they have been gone for a long time but now it is time for the resurrection of the death dealers. Without death there is no light and they are nature's pestilence. This felt a lot better than anything the three of them have done in a long time.

AEW's Tony Schiavone and Tony Khan, this time flanked by a bunch of AEW wrestlers, including Team Taz, Britt Baker, Matt Hardy and more, are glad to be doing more charity work. Khan (who Schiavone calls the Forbidden Door) refers to himself as the Biggest Mark In Professional Wrestling and the wrestlers cut mini promos about how they are ready for their matches this week. Schiavone gives us a more traditional rundown.

Nevaeh tells Havok that she needs some time away and won't listen to Havok trying to talk her out of it. Nevaeh leaves and here are Kaleb With A K (in a neck brace) and Tenille Dashwood to propose a new team with Havok. That's a big negative, but Kaleb With A K thinks there's chemistry.

XXXL vs. Good Brothers

Non-title. Larry runs Anderson over to start but gets sent into the corner for a fall away slam from Gallows. It's off to Romero, with Striker talking about how Romero looks like Adrian Adonis. With that image out of the way, Romero drives Anderson into the corner and brings Larry back in to choke on the ropes. We hit the chinlock on Anderson but he jawbreaks his way to freedom. The hot tag brings in Gallows and house is cleaned. The Magic Killer finishes Larry at 5:55.

Rating: D+. Pretty much just a workout for the Brothers here, though the Magic Killer on someone Larry's size was impressive. I can go for seeing a match like this and XXXL

have just enough status to make it mean something. If nothing else it meant I didn't have to hear the Brothers talking and that's a plus.

We go to Swinger's Palace, where James Storm and Chris Sabin are making money but Rohit Raju comes in and takes the card they need, costing them a lot of money. Storm is ready to fight but Sabin says this isn't happening because he loves Swinger's Palace. A match is set up between Raju and Storm for later.

The Good Bros ask FinJuice about their beers but FinJuice points out that it took them a bit to beat XXXL. FinJuice talk about how great the Brothers are but make a few jokes so Gallows has to hold Anderson back.

Eddie Edwards vs. Brian Myers

Hold on though as Myers comes out in street clothes. Myers has retained a lawyer and is accusing Impact for an unsafe working environment over his eye injury. Therefore Myers can't wrestle so here's a replacement.

Eddie Edwards vs. Hernandez

Eddie dives onto Hernandez before the bell and they get inside to get things going. Hernandez is knocked to the floor but cuts off a dive by sweeping the legs, sending Edwards back first into the apron. Myers gets in a few shots to the face and there's the big shoulder to send Edwards flying. Eddie catches Hernandez on top though and it's a superplex to bring them back down. The Border Toss is loaded up but Eddie gets out and goes up, meaning it's a middle rope Boston Knee Party for the pin at 2:30.

Post break Matt Cardona comes up to Brian Myers, who doesn't want to hear it. Scott D'Amore comes in to say he has talked to the lawyer, See, that contract is rather technical and the clause they use says Myers has to be cleared by an Impact

doctor....and he has been so next week it's Myers vs. Edwards in an Eye For An Eye match. And Cardona can referee! Myers protests and OF COURSE we aren't doing an Eye For An Eye match because that would be stupid. The company that had a reality show, a whodunit over a split personality and a casino is complaining about something being ridiculous?

Kimber Lee/Susan vs. Jordynne Grace/Jazz

For the #1 contendership to the Tag Team Titles and Deonna Purrazzo is here with Lee and Susan. Jazz flips her way out of Susan's waistlock and Gator Rolls her for a bonus. Some crossface forearms keep Susan in trouble but Purrazzo grabs Jazz's leg for a distraction. Cue ODB to jump Purrazzo and that's good for an ejection as we take a break. Back with Jazz fighting out of a chinlock but getting caught before she can get over to Grace. Forearms in the corner set up Susan's chinlock to keep Jazz down.

Another comeback attempt is cut off so it's back to Lee, who is headbutted down in a hurry. Grace gets the tag to clean house and Lee is knocked to the floor. A double gordbuster gets two on Susan and there's a torture rack to make it even worse. Susan slips out so Grace plants her again with a German suplex. A poke to the eye sets up an ankle lock on Grace, who powers out in a hurry and finishes with the Grace Driver at 10:48.

Rating: C-. The Knockouts Tag Team Titles continue to be a bit of a problem as there are a lot of people involved in the division but there is little reason to have them team up other than they have to. That was the case with Grace and Jazz, but at least Susan and Lee are in the same group. That isn't quite enough to warrant a team, but you kind of have to deal with it in a division like this.

ODB has been attacked and Grace/Jazz think it was Deonna Purrazzo.

Here's what's coming next week.

TNA World Title: Moose vs. Jake Something

Moose is defending but Jake jumps him from behind and literally steals the spotlight during his entrance. They fight on the floor and we take a break, coming back with nothing seeming to have changed. Jake throws him in for the opening bell, with Moose saying bring it on. Moose hits a running charge in the corner and starts choking on the ropes, followed by the trash talking chop in the corner. Jake's face is sent into the apron and his ribs are sent into the barricade so Moose can chill for a bit inside.

Back in and Jake grabs the wrist for a series of clotheslines. A big one turns Moose inside out but he's right back up to walk into the Michinoku Driver for two. Jake goes up but Moose nails him with a good dropkick and the top rope superplex is good for the double knockdown. The spear is countered into a sitout powerbomb for two and they're both down. They get back up for the big slugout with Moose nailing a pump kick. A release Rock Bottom sets up a release Rock Bottom into the discus lariat to knock Jake silly. Now the spear can retain at 6:51.

Rating: C. Jake looked good here and while I'm still not wild on the rather indy name, it was nice to see someone fresh getting to showcase themselves. It was a good power brawl and while the ending wasn't in doubt, at least they offered a new name in the main event. Now if only Jake can get away from Violent By Design, he might be able to jump up the ladder a bit.

Post match Moose grabs the chair but Rich Swann runs in for the save. Referees break it up so here's Scott D'Amore to make the title match at Sacrifice on March 13. Striker: "When you make a deal with the devil, you cannot negotiate the price."

Overall Rating: C. This was a perfectly serviceable show which

had some acceptable matches and moved some stories forward. At the same time though there is nothing worth going out of your way to see and Striker was his usual annoying self. In other words, it's right in the middle and that is kind of an upgrade for the show. The lack of annoying stuff helped a lot too, though I have no reason to believe it won't be there again next week.

Results

Jake Something b. Deaner – Spinebuster through a table

Chris Bey/Ace Austin/Black Taurus b. Josh Alexander/Willie Mack/Trey Miguel – Art of Finesse to Mack

Good Brothers b. XXXL – Magic Killer to Larry D.

Eddie Edwards b. Hernandez – Middle rope Boston Knee Party

Jordynne Grace/Jazz b. Kimber Lee/Susan – Grace Driver to Susan

Moose b. Jake Something – Lights Out

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The Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards Are Out

And....yeah I can't say I'm surprised.

It's that time of year again. The Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards have been released and that means it is time to hear about how bad WWE is, how great AEW is and how no one really knows any other promotions aside from those two and New Japan. As usual, some of these are going to be good, some of these are going to be in the middle, and some of these are going to either make you laugh or need an aspirin. Let's get to it.

As usual, I'll be skipping the MMA awards because they're still not wrestling.

Wrestler Of The Year – Jon Moxley

I can get this, but the garbage brawls in the main events were starting to grate on me. It was almost always going to be him or Drew McIntyre though and that's fine. Roman Reigns was great, but he was gone for about half of the year so it's kind of hard to go with an amazing four months over a very good twelve months.

Most Outstanding Wrestler – Kenny Omega

Are you really surprised by this in any way, shape or form? It's pretty clear that Meltzer thinks Omega is the greatest thing ever so him winning this is hardly a shock whatsoever.

Tag Team Of The Year – Young Bucks

They don't hold the Tag Team Titles for most of the year but they've won the award five times before so....yeah of course they win here, despite maybe not being in the top three teams in AEW.

Best Interviews – Eddie Kingston

Yep.

Promotion Of The Year – All Elite Wrestling

Some of you may be noticing a pattern emerging here and while this is far from some ridiculous pick, I think you might be starting to see how these awards are going to go. If you're talking just WWE vs. AEW then yeah I can see it, but I'd take NXT overall if that's an option (and fair enough if it wasn't).

Best Weekly TV Series – AEW Dynamite

It's a toss up between this and NXT, though Ring of Honor's Pure Tournament stuff was quite good. Again though: with a six month hiatus, how much praise can you really give them? Same with NXT UK, though the hour being chopped off is a helpful tool.

Match Of The Year – Kenny Omega/Hangman Page vs. Young Bucks

That's what I had too.

MVP Awards

USA – Kenny Omega

Japan – Tetsuya Naito

Mexico – Rey Fenix

Europe – Walter

Non-Heavyweight – Hiromu Takahashi

Women's Wrestling – Bayley

These continue to be the most pointless awards of the year, but given that Fenix wrestled in Mexico FIVE TIMES in 2020 (and not at all from March 7 – December 12), I think there

might be some better candidates.

Box Office Draw Of The Year – Conor McGregor

The guy fought once for 40 seconds in January. This is a totally realistic comparison to wrestlers appearing for free on television 52 weeks a year.

Feud Of The Year – Jon Moxley vs. Eddie Kingston

I had it on my list of options but went with Bayley vs. Sasha Banks instead. Part of the problem is they only had two matches, one of which was thrown onto TV because of Lance Archer being held off the show. The promos were great, but I could go with a bit more than something that lasted about five weeks, started out of necessity more than a plan, and had some pretty obvious results.

By the way: that is now eight awards (not counting ones including MMA or the regional MVPs) and AEW has swept the year. WWE's lone win: their international developmental champion who didn't appear for six months and wrestles elsewhere.

Most Improved – Britt Baker

I could see this one, but I'm really not sure I can go with it. Bobby Lashley had a banner year and seemed primed to FINALLY move into the main event. Roman Reigns is the best heel in years (again: time issue). Bayley found every groove you could want as a heel. But then there's Main Event Jey Uso, who may I remind you is JEY USO IN THE MAIN EVENT. Baker was very good and I don't see it as some horrible choice, but Uso blows this away for me, just due to the surprise factor alone.

Most Charismatic – Maxwell Jacob Friedman

If you go with the stuff before the Inner Circle, it's hard to argue. Sidenote: Orange Cassidy got second place. Isn't his thing that he doesn't have charisma or energy or anything

close to it 90% of the time?

Best Technical Wrestler – Zach Sabre Jr.

That guy is so good with this stuff that he scares me, mainly because I don't know how he is doing what I'm watching. I'd say that qualifies (and it has for seven years in a row now).

Best Brawler – Jon Moxley

His brawls aren't even that great. I'm not sure who I would give this to, but I don't think it's Moxley. Lance Archer maybe? His are a bit more entertaining a good chunk of the time.

Best Flying Wrestler – Rey Fenix

I mean, he misses a lot of stuff but there are times where I can't believe what I'm seeing from him so yeah I'm good with this too.

Most Overrated – Bray Wyatt

One day I'm going to need to get a definition of overrated, because it seems to be a lot closer to overpushed than anything else. And hey: WWE won something! Sure it's a negative award but the streak is broken!

Most Underrated – Ricochet

Again: who thinks Ricochet is underrated? People are begging for him to be more regularly pushed. That's not what underrated means, at least anywhere else. By the way: this is now 24 years in a row (and 27/28) that a WWE wrestler has won this award.

Rookie Of The Year – Pat McAfee

I would have been actually mad if this had been ANYONE else.

Best Non-Wrestler – Taz

I had Pat McAfee as he barely wrestled, but Taz is a fine choice as he has revitalized his career.

Best Television Announcer – Excalibur

Not until he learns how to properly say “combination”. Excalibur isn’t the best commentator on either show he appears on, nor is he anywhere close to the best in the business today. That goes to the criminally underrated Ian Riccaboni, who makes wrestling sound like a sport, makes Nickelodeon and TGIF references and seems like the nicest guy in the world. This is the most wrong of all the choices, but I guess commentary stopped being about telling stories etc. and becoming more about knowing who invented an armbar in Japan thirty years ago while wearing a mask and insulting JR for suggesting that Mid-South was good.

Worst Television Announcer – Michael Cole

Is that who is under Excalibur’s mask?

Best Major Wrestling Show – Revolution

I didn’t even have to look it up. I’m going to assume that Takeovers don’t count as major shows because I need to keep my blood pressure low and move on.

Worst Major Wrestling Show – Super Showdown

It’s the only show where I felt guilty for watching it so I think that qualifies.

Best Wrestling Maneuver – One Winged Angel

You knew this was coming as that’s 4/5 years in a row. I can’t wait for someone to kick out of that thing so we can stop acting like it’s the legdrop or Stunner.

Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic – WWE Releases Wrestlers While Making Record Profits

And no. Back in April, WWE released a few dozen wrestlers. Some of the names included:

Eric Young

EC3

Mike/Maria Kanellis

Aiden English

Heath Slater

Curt Hawkins

Sarah Logan

Primo/Epico

No Way Jose

Curtis Axel

There were other names and yeah some of them (Rusev/Good Brothers) felt pretty ridiculous. But look at that list of 12 names and tell me who had any serious value in WWE. Not who COULD have had value, but which of them was more than house show filler at the time of/within let's say six months of their release.

Yeah it sounds harsh that they were released, but WWE isn't a charity and as William Regal once said, no one owes you a living. The same is true of the agents who were furloughed: there aren't as many shows taking place, so what are they supposed to get paid to do? I get the knee jerk reaction to this (and I had one as well because it was so shocking), but WWE has done this kind of spring cleaning for YEARS (not as much recently, but it's hardly some unheard of idea) and it wasn't a big deal. Low level wrestlers got released. That's not disgusting.

You know what is? Matt Hardy flying off of a lift, slamming his head onto the concrete and being cleared about three minutes later so he could climb the set to do a stunt to end a match with Sammy Guevara at All Out. What WWE did was business (not nice business, but business). What AEW did with Hardy was disgusting.

Worst Television Show – Raw

At least it didn't have Tommy Dreamer as a featured star, a still going feud over a wad of money, a portal to another dimension so the wrestlers could have a reality show, Eric Young as World Champion and a whodunit over a manager getting shot at a wedding by someone who was changed into another personality by cologne. Oh or another promotion coming in to constantly point out how pathetic the show is. I can't imagine how badly that show would be seen. The more I read these things, the more convince I am that I'm the only person who watches ROH and Impact.

Worst Match Of The Year – Bray Wyatt vs. Braun Strowman (Swamp Fight)

I went with that too, though if you want to go with an actual match, that time where Matt Hardy's head bounced off of some concrete and he continued the match in a few minutes because AEW's concussion protocol can be done faster than defrosting a frozen General Tso's chicken might qualify.

Worst Feud Of The Year – Braun Strowman vs. Bray Wyatt

That's kind of hard to argue.

Worst Promotion Of The Year – WWE

AEW'S OWNER IS COMING TO IMPACT WRESTLING EVERY WEEK TO TELL THEM HOW MUCH THEY SUCK AND IMPACT'S OWNERS ARE COMPLETELY OK WITH THIS!!! As usual, fans think that Raw is all WWE does and as usual, those people are wrong.

Also, the Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic Award was related to WWE's business practices. Those practices are making them millions upon millions upon millions of dollars a year, not counting the latest (yes latest) BILLION dollar deal that they announced early in 2021. Yeah they have one bad TV show, but they probably make more in a month than most promotions do in a year. Now what's worse: a bad TV show from a company making no money or a bad TV show from a company making more money than we could ever hope to spend in a lifetime?

Best Booker – Tony Khan (AEW)

You knew (wait for it)

Best Promoter – Tony Khan (AEW)

It was coming (there you go)

Best Gimmick – Orange Cassidy

When your gimmick is being lazy, I'm not sure how much praise it is worth. At least he's back down in the midcard where he belongs.

Worst Gimmick – The Fiend

It won Best Gimmick in the year of a DQ inside the Cell and wins Worst Gimmick here. What a fickle bunch. I'd probably go with Dexter Lumis, but I get that he has an audience.

Best Pro Wrestling Book – Killing The Business (The Young Bucks)

I have a wrestling bookshelf across the room from me, plus a pile next to me at the moment. Between those we have:

The Eighth Wonder Of The World (Bertrand Herbert/Pat Laparde)

Under The Black Hat (Jim Ross)

Rowdy (Ariel/Colton Tombs)

Master Of The Ring (Tim Hornbaker, which I don't own but want to pick up)

Take any 320 pages out of those (it can be from any book in any order) and I have a feeling it's going to be better written/more interesting than the Bucks' story.

Documentary Of The Year – Owen Hart (Dark Side Of The Ring)

That wasn't even the best episode of the season, but I can go with it for the emotional impact.

Final tally (ignoring awards for things other than wrestling/regional MVPs and one off wins from outside the big two):

AEW – 19

WWE – 10 (8 negative, with Underrated being kind of a negative as well)

I have no issue buying that AEW was better than Raw, Smackdown and NXT, but come on with some of these. Raw for Worst TV Show? Cole as Worst Announcer? Excalibur as Best Announcer? WWE as Worst Promotion (again: IMPACT IS HAPPY WITH AEW COMING OVER AND INSULTING THEM!)? The Bucks get book of the year?

I've said many times before that there is no such thing as being unbiased in reviewing (it's literally impossible). That's all well and good, but there is a difference between being somewhat biased and just picking what you like and going against what you don't like. These awards have felt like they are more the anti-WWE awards for years and if that's what the people voting think then rock on, but good grief with some of these.

WWE wasn't great in 2020, but it's not like AEW was that much better. These would have you believe that 2000 WCW was laughing at WWE and it just wasn't that bad. I'm not upset about any of them (save for the Promotional Tactic deal, which

was just dumb) but I'm also not surprised by some of the most ridiculous ones.