

# Smackdown – September 22, 2006: Welcome To The New Home

## Smackdown

Date: September 22, 2006

Location: Bell Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Attendance: 13,500

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're now officially on the way to No Mercy and we even have a main event for the show. Last week Bobby Lashley became the new #1 contender to King Booker, but tonight Booker has to face Vito. That's what we're getting on a Season Premiere as the show moves to a new network with the CW. Let's get to it.

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

King Booker and Queen Sharmell come in to see Teddy Long. They don't like that Booker's hands are going to be sullied by a match with Vito because everything they have is the finest. After a look at Sharmell's gown, Teddy has good news for them: Vito has stepped aside and Undertaker will face him instead. The accents are dropped in a hurry and panic sets in. So why advertise Vito when you could advertise Undertaker?

New opening sequence, featuring the wrestlers turning into comic book style caricatures.

William Regal/Finlay vs. Batista/Bobby Lashley

Batista wants to start with Finlay but gets jumped by Regal instead. That goes as well as you would expect for Regal, who gets sent into the corner for the shoulders to the ribs. Finlay runs away from Batista on the floor so Batista settles for a spinebuster to Regal instead. Lashley comes in for a double delayed vertical suplex (not bad) and a snap suplex gets two on Regal. It's off to Finlay, who gets caught in a

torture rack dropped into a backbreaker but a low bridge puts Lashley on the floor.

Regal nails a clothesline and the villains (you know they're villains because Regal's trunks say "villain") take over with Finlay dropping some elbows. It's back to Finlay, who mocks Lashley for not being able to make the tag and kicks him in the ribs like an evil one would do. Regal's t-bone suplex gets two as JBL talks about how much he can't stand the French, Canadians or French Canadians. Regal jumps Batista on the apron so Batista comes in sans tag and cleans house. The Shillelagh is taken away from Regal so Lashley can nail the spear for the pin.

**Rating:** C. Nicely done here as they give Lashley a bit of a boost and let Batista vs. Finlay stay on the burner, likely for a showdown at No Mercy. They didn't have much time here but the formula can work out well in short bursts too so this worked out fine. Good choice for an opener on the new network too, with a star like Batista and a hard hitting fight to give Lashley some nice exposure.

Here's Layla, who promises to make Smackdown hot and dances a lot. Cue Krystal to say not so fast because she's the hot one, meaning the brawl is on. Jillian Hall runs in for the save and rips off Krystal's top. Then she rips off Layla's top, followed by her own. And we move on.

Long video on Rey Mysterio and Chavo Guerrero being friends/family and then splitting up over Chavo and Vickie Guerrero not liking Rey cashing in on the Guerrero name. Still a totally fair point.

#### Matt Hardy vs. Gregory Helms

Non-title. They go straight at it with Helms being backdropped out to the floor. Back in and Helms slips out of something off the top and snaps Hardy throat first across the top. A swinging neckbreaker gives Helms two and an elbow drop gets

the same. The chinlock doesn't last long so Helms hits what would eventually become the Codebreaker for two more.

Hardy jawbreaks his way out of another chinlock and grabs the Side Effect for two. A moonsault press gets two on more on Helms, who is right back with the Shining Wizard for the same. Helms goes for the turnbuckle pad so the referee puts it back on, allowing Hardy to hit a low blow into the rollup pin (ala Helms last week).

**Rating:** C. Hardy doing the same thing to Helms as the previous week was a nice touch, but I'm still not sure what the point of this feud is if Hardy can't (and doesn't seem interested in) win the Cruiserweight Title. The wrestling was fine enough, but it feels like we're going in circles here. I know the title doesn't mean anything, so why is it even a thing at this point?

Miz promises to win his next match.

Jimmy Wang Yang thought about debuting tonight but doesn't feel very comfortable in Montreal. Not too many rednecks you see, so we'll do it in Oklahoma next week.

### Miz vs. Funaki

They fight over wrist control to start with Miz wristdragging him down. Another takedown sets up a suplex, followed by the Mizard of Oz (which lands in a reverse DDT this time instead of a neckbreaker) to keep Miz undefeated. Keeping Miz short is the right idea at the moment.

Rey Mysterio has had it with the Guerreros and today is the first day of the rest of his life.

Video on the Marine.

### Rey Mysterio vs. Chavo Guerrero

Vickie Guerrero is here with Chavo. They start fast again with

Rey hammering away to take it to the floor. The fight goes into the crowd with Rey still getting the better of things until his hurricanrana is sent into the barricade. Things go back into the crowd and Rey sends him into the barricade over and over. Rey doesn't seem to notice that the referee is telling him it's over and they get back to ringside with Chavo getting kicked in the ribs. Vickie throws Chavo a chair, which Rey dropkicks off his face. Vickie's interference doesn't work as Rey hammers away again and referees come in to break it up. I'm not sure this was a match.

**Rating:** C. It wasn't much of a match as it was much more of a brawl than anything else, but I want to see these two fight again, which is a lot more than I could say coming in. You could feel the anger and hatred here and that's the best thing that could happen in a segment like this. Good stuff and I'm sure No Mercy waits for them.

Maryse welcomes us back to the show. I think you can get why she has a job.

Tag Team Titles: Brian Kendrick/Paul London vs. Pit Bulls vs. KC James/Idol Stevens

London and Kendrick are defending and Michelle McCool is here with James and Stevens. It's a brawl to start with James, Kendrick and Noble getting things going. The Pitbulls beat on Stevens and Kash pounds him down for two. Stevens breaks that up and Kash gets knocked down into the corner, including a snapmare for two more.

Kendrick comes back and hammers away, allowing the hot tag off to London to pick the pace way up. A dropkick gets two on Stevens with the Pit Bulls making the save. Michelle gets on the apron for no apparent reason as Kash brainbusters London. Sliced Bread takes Kash down but Stevens hits a heck of a spinebuster on Kendrick. Noble sends him outside and rolls London up, only to get reversed into another rollup for the

pin.

**Rating:** C+. As the champs tend to do, they got in and out without wasting time and had a high energy match. They really have become one of the most consistently entertaining things on Smackdown and this should be the blowoff to the three way feud. I'm sure it won't be because there aren't any other teams to come after them, but at least they had a nice match here.

Elijah Burke introduces Sylvester Terkay. Sylvester: "I'm Sylvester Terkay." End of segment.

Video on Batista visiting the Philippines.

Here's Sylvan to a crazy hero's welcome and he seems fired up to be here. After saying something in French, we're ready to go.

### Sylvan vs. Tatanka

Sylvan chops away to start but Tatanka comes back with some right hands and is booed out of the building. A backbreaker sets up a chinlock but Sylvan is back with a spinebuster. There's a dropkick to put Tatanka down again and a spinning belly to back slam gets two more. Tatanka tries a sunset flip but Sylvan sits down and grabs the rope for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. The wrestling was nothing to see here but WOW that crowd was behind Sylvan. That is the kind of thing that has never happened before and will probably never happen again, but thankfully WWE was smart enough to capitalize on it once. Let the fans have something to cheer and let a scrub like Tatanka take another loss. This was nice to see and I don't get to say that very often.

John Cena visits Teddy Long and thanks him for the contract offer that was ready had Cena lost at Unforgiven. Long has an idea: Cena visits Smackdown next week and teams with Batista

and Bobby Lashley against William Regal/Finlay/King Booker. Cena is in and leaves so Long dances in celebration.

No Mercy rundown with Batista vs. Finlay and Mysterio vs. Guerrero announced.

### King Booker vs. Undertaker

Non-title, Sharmell is here with Booker and Mr. Kennedy is on commentary. Kennedy gets freaked out by Undertaker's entrance and JBL isn't much better. Undertaker strikes away to start and knocks Booker to the floor early on. We take a break and come back with Undertaker hammering away even more, setting up the knuckle lock lift to have Booker in more trouble. The arm is wrapped around the top rope but Old School is broken up.

A Sharmell distraction lets Booker grab a superplex and it's time to choke on the ropes. Booker knocks him outside for a ram into the steps, followed by a DDT for two. The side kick misses though and Undertaker hits a jumping clothesline. Snake Eyes into the big boot gets two but Booker is back with the jumping kick to the face. Undertaker is right back to load up the Tombstone but Booker slips out and hits a low blow for the DQ.

**Rating:** C. As has been the case almost all night, this was all about making an appearance rather than the match itself. Undertaker being in the ring is still a treat and it was a good idea to have him on a special show. These two haven't always had the best chemistry but they weren't out there very long and it's not like the bad finish came after a pay per view title match.

Post match here's Bobby Lashley to throw Booker back inside, meaning it's a chokeslam and Tombstone. Undertaker stares down at Kennedy to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a show where the wrestling did not really matter but the presentation was very good. For a

season premiere on a new network, they did a great job of keeping things moving and having all of the big names come in and out throughout the show. They set up things both for the pay per view and next week so some fans might want to come back again. I don't get impressed by WWE very often but they did a rather nice job here and that's great to see.

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## ECW on Sci Fi – September 19, 2006: King Me

### ECW on Sci Fi

Date: September 19, 2006

Location: DCU Arena, Worcester, Massachusetts

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

We're continuing with the guest stars this week as King Booker is here. There are worse ideas than having him around, though I can't imagine it being some big game changer. Other than that, we'll likely get more of the ECW Originals vs. new guys, which should have some legs just for how many people are involved. Let's get to it.

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

King Booker and Queen Sharmell arrive, with Paul Heyman literally rolling out the red carpet. Heyman is going to introduce them to his locker room.

Opening sequence.

Sabu/Tommy Dreamer/Sandman vs. Mike Knox/Test/Matt Striker

This is Striker's first match on the show. Dreamer and Knox circle each other for a bit to start before it's off to Striker, who runs away from Sandman in a hurry. Knox comes in and gets neckbreakered by Dreamer, followed by a Cactus Clothesline. Test drives Dreamer into the post and Striker knocks Sandman into the barricade...so hard that Sandman is taken out as we go to a break.

Back with the match in handicap form and Test elbowing Dreamer in the face in the corner. The running corner clothesline lets Test stand on his back and it's off to Striker for a quickly broken chinlock. Instead, Striker hammers away with right hands before handing it back to Test for another whip into the corner.

The bearhug lets Knox take his turn at hurting Dreamer but he misses a middle rope legdrop. A reverse DDT plants Knox and the hot tag brings in Sabu to a big reaction. House is cleaned, including the springboard spinning legdrop to Knox, plus Air Sabu. Test saves Striker from the camel clutch and then shoves the referee into the ropes to crotch Sabu on top...which is the ultra rare ECW DQ, which does not have the fans in the best mood.

**Rating:** D+. As usual, one of the biggest problems continues to be the lack of anything outside of basic power moves from Test and Knox. They aren't interesting and having them as some of the higher profile heels on the show isn't doing ECW any favors. The ECW Originals are fine as a unit with nothing else



to do, but it's not like Sandman being out of the match caused any major changes.

Post match the big beatdown is on until Sandman staggers out for the save with the Singapore cane.

Heyman introduces King Booker and Queen Sharmell to CW Anderson and Stevie Richards, but they are both disturbed by Balls Mahoney.

### Kevin Thorn vs. Balls Mahoney

Ariel is here with Thorn so Mahoney brings out Francine in her debut. The women almost get in a fight before the match so Thorn knocks Mahoney outside. Back in and the beating continues until Mahoney grabs a quick kind of powerbomb for two. Ariel trips him down though, meaning the catfight is on (ok go ahead Joey). Mahoney gets distracted and a Razor's Edge out of the corner gives Thorn the pin.

Booker and Sharmell meet the FBI and Trinity, who does not please Sharmell. Next up is CM Punk, who explains straightedge. Punk likes the idea of a World Title shot against Booker so Heyman hurries the royals out.

### Shannon Moore vs. CM Punk

Yes again, though this time Kelly Kelly comes out to watch. Punk hammers away to start and hits a leg lariat, followed by the surfboard to put Moore in more trouble. That's broken up and Moore gets in some shots of his own as Mike Knox comes out to take Kelly to the back. Punk fights out of a chinlock and kicks away but Moore counters the bulldog out of the corner. A spinwheel kick sets up a Whisper in the Wind but Punk sidesteps the flying man with the neon mohawk without much effort. The high kick sets up the Rock Bottom into the Anaconda Vice for the tap.

**Rating:** C-. Punk is always fun to watch and moving him up to

face Knox over Kelly is certain better than having him beat up ECW Originals and Shannon Moore over and over. The match was nothing of course, but the whole point was to have Kelly out there and set up something with Knox. It's not overly interesting, but it's a good step for Punk, which is a good idea.

King Booker and Queen Sharmell run into Rob Van Dam. The non-title Extreme Rules match is set up for tonight.

Rene Dupree brags about beating Balls Mahoney last week.

Video on John Cena in the Marine. Again.

### Rob Van Dam vs. King Booker

Non-title and Extreme Rules. Rob strikes away in the corner to start but gets shoved off the top and into the barricade to put him down early. Booker whips him hard into the steps, meaning it's time to bring in a chair. A kick to the face misses but Booker grabs the Book End, setting up the Spinarooni (Extreme Royal version). That takes too long though so Rob knocks him into the corner, setting up the skateboarded chair to the face. Rolling Thunder onto the chair onto Booker connects but it's a rather delayed two.

The fans want tables but settle for Rob wedging a chair into the corner instead. Since Rob set it up though, he gets catapulted head first into the chair for a nasty crash. The spinebuster onto the chair makes it worse but the Houston Hangover only hits chair. The Five Star connects but here's Hardcore Holly to chair Van Dam in the back. Holly hits the Alabama Slam and Booker adds the ax kick for the pin.

**Rating:** C. The match was about as paint by numbers as you can get but they are talented people having a paint by numbers match so it worked out just fine. Holly interfering is a good way to get out of things while keeping Van Dam strong and that's about as important of a thing as they can do at the

moment. The match felt like it belonged on a house show but around here, that's all it needed to be.

**Overall Rating:** C-. The lack of star power continues to shine through rather hard around here with Booker being the latest name they have to bring in to help things out. There are only two main event level stars around here in Big Show and Van Dam, but how many times can they use those two? That's why CM Punk could be the next best hope, because you can see the star power in him. Odds are that is a long way off though so for now, this was another not so great show.

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# Elimination Chamber 2021 Preview

We're on the Road To Wrestlemania and since WWE likes to have a few extra events these days, we have two pay per views before we can get there. This time around that includes Elimination Chamber, which does have something interesting with the show's namesake matches. They're doing something different with the two World Title matches this time around so

maybe they'll have something. Let's get to it.

#### US Title: Bobby Lashley(c) vs. Keith Lee vs. Riddle

Lashley is on a heck of a roll as US Champion but I'm not sure if he is going to hang onto the title here. They have done a nice job of setting up the match but that's assuming you ignore the absence of Lee, who was not even on the go home Raw. I'm not sure if that is going to be a big deal, but at the same time, it could give them an out to retain the title because WWE doesn't mind having Lee lose quite often.

I'll go with Lashley retaining the title, though I'm not sure how much longer he'll be champion. In theory he should be on the way to challenging for the World Title sooner rather than later but he'll need to lose the US Title first. I'll take Lashley beating Lee here though, as Riddle continues to get close to winning the title but never actually gets there. I'm not sure he'll notice though and he'll still be just fine anyway.

#### Women's Tag Team Titles: Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler(c) vs. Bianca Belair/Sasha Banks

My goodness these titles continue to find new ways to feel completely worthless. How many times in a row can the challengers be another thrown together team who have almost no time together as partners? That's where we are again here, but at least Belair and Banks have a story together. I mean, of course they have the chance to have a story together because they totally haven't made it clear that Belair is challenging Banks at Wrestlemania.

Anyway I'll take Belair and Banks winning the title here, as there is no reason to keep the titles on Jax and Baszler. I don't like the champions who feud with each other, but at least it could give them a chance to transition the titles to Raquel Gonzalez/Dakota Kai in NXT where they belong. Just go with what makes sense for the titles for once. It might be

nice for a change.

Raw World Title: Drew McIntyre(c) vs. Sheamus vs. AJ Styles vs. Jeff Hardy vs. Randy Orton vs. Kofi Kingston

I have no idea where they are going with the WWE Title right now. Everything on paper says it should be McIntyre vs. Sheamus in a one or two match program for the title but unless Sheamus wins the belt here and they go to Fastlane where McIntyre gets it back and then moves on to Wrestlemania, I'm not sure what else there is to do. That somehow leaves them with few options and a lot of options, which is quite the situation.

In what is rarely a good idea, I'll go with the logical way and say Sheamus leaves as champion here, setting up the showdown with McIntyre at Fastlane. I'll also ignore the Money in the Bank briefcase because I can't manage to care that much less about Miz and the contract. But yeah, we'll go with Sheamus winning here, probably eliminating McIntyre last to get the title.

Jey Uso vs. Kevin Owens vs. Daniel Bryan vs. Cesaro vs. King Corbin vs. Sami Zayn

Now we have a match with even more options to win because it's kind of obvious what is coming after this match is over. This time around, the winner of the Elimination Chamber gets to challenge Roman Reigns immediately thereafter, making this kind of the consolation prize for the winner due to reasons of impending destruction. That doesn't mean it is going to be a bad match, but it kind of weakens the impact.

I know the easy answers are either Cesaro or Owens...so I'll go with Owens, hopefully allowing him to wrap up the feud with Reigns once and for all in another pretty awesome match. The match has a lot of potential and could go several different ways, but having the Chamber as a #1 contenders match never set all that right with me. It should be good though, and

that's all it needs to be.

### Smackdown World Title: Roman Reigns(c) vs. ???

So yeah I don't think there is going to be that much drama to this one. Unless they have some kind of screwy finish to the Chamber where the winner is only in the ring for about ten seconds and comes into the title match fresh, this is about as much of a layup as you're going to find. There is a good chance that Reigns is still champion going into Wrestlemania next year so I can't imagine him dropping it here.

I think I've made it clear enough but just for the sake of completion, Reigns retains here and should do it pretty easily. Above all else, this continues the theme of Paul Heyman being smart enough to keep Reigns from having to work that much a lot of the time, and that is a great use for him. It fits everything they're doing and Reigns has to do nothing but hold out his hand and take the title, because he knows he's good enough to get away with it.

Note that I'm leaving off Asuka vs. Lacey Evans, which isn't going to happen because WWE isn't that crazy, despite it still being listed on the WWE.com preview as of early Sunday morning. Granted WWE.com also says that the show starts at both 7pm (Network schedule) and 8pm (show's official page) so maybe I'm thinking too much into this.

### Overall Thoughts

Overall...I'm really not sure what to expect from this one and that's a nice thing to be able to say. Above all else, either Chamber match could go in a few different directions and I'll absolutely take that over last year where Shayna Baszler was the biggest lock to win in the history of the match. It shouldn't be so difficult to write a story that leaves you with multiple options but since WWE does not have the best track record in that area, it's rather nice to have that kind of a feeling for this show.

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# Impact Wrestling – February 16, 2021: Then Go To Japan

## **Impact Wrestling**

Date: February 16, 2021

Location: Skyway Studios, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: D'Lo Brown, Matt Striker

We're done with No Surrender and that means it's time to get moving towards Rebellion. There weren't a ton of changes coming out of No Surrender but one of the more interesting ones saw Josh Alexander becoming the new #1 contender to the X-Division Title. The question for tonight is seeing what we'll be seeing from AEW next. And what is up with Tommy Dreamer. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a No Surrender recap.

David Finlay and Juice Robinson, better known as FinJuice, are coming from New Japan. Well that's an upgrade.

Opening sequence.

X-Division Title: Josh Alexander vs. TJP

TJP is defending and they're starting fast this week. Commentary hypes the heck out of the guys and the title so well done so far. They go to the mat to start and the threat of an ankle lock sends TJP straight to the ropes. Back up and an abdominal stretch has Alexander in some trouble but that's broken up. An ankle scissors takes Alexander down but he grabs an ankle lock. STRIKER: "STAND UP AND APPLAUD!" No.

Alexander takes him down and works on the ankle some more before switching to some leg cranking. A surfboard has TJP in even more trouble but he slips out and grabs a triangle choke. That's broken up with a powerbomb backbreaker but TJP slaps it on again. This time Alexander takes him into the corner and catapults him into the middle buckle for a clever counter. Alexander puts a knee in the back and cranks on both arms, only to have TJP flip forward...and not break a thing. Well they can't all work.

Back up and the abdominal stretch is broken up so TJP climbs on his back and tries a full nelson but can't get the hands locked. Alexander reverses into another ankle lock but this time it's rolled out to the floor. The slingshot dropkick knocks Alexander silly and the tornado DDT gives TJP two back inside. Alexander dumps him outside in a heap but TJP dropkicks him out of the air for a double knockdown. It's the ankle lock going on again so TJP counters again (the ankle lock isn't working at all here), this time with an enziguri.

TJP goes up top but gets kicked in the head but can't hit a super Divine Intervention. Instead TJP shoves him off the top and the Mamba Splash...hits raised knees. Another ankle lock, this time with the grapevine, has Striker getting WAY too



excited as TJP escapes again. Another Divine Intervention is countered into the Octopus, which is countered into, say it with me, the ankle lock. Say it with me again: TJP counters, this time with a slap to the face into a suplex. Josh's big boot is countered into the Detonation Kick and the Mamba Splash retains at 11:23.

**Rating:** B. They were going nuts with the counters here, though Alexander's ankle locking felt like spamming a finisher in a game. That being said, it was a heck of a match here and I wanted to see who was going to win. Granted not as much as it is going to take to validate Striker losing his mind about how awesome the match was after it's over, but it was very good indeed.

Tommy Dreamer (before the first break) isn't happy with what Moose did to Rich Swann on Saturday. Tonight, Moose is getting some sense beaten into him in an Old School Rules match.

Brian Myers runs into Hernandez and gives him the rest of his pay for the win at No Surrender. It worked on Saturday so let's do the same thing again tonight, with Hernandez getting paid again if he beats Matt Cardona. Fallah Bahh comes up to say he has been looking for Hernandez. This isn't happening again but Bahh says he is here as an investor. If Bahh gives him \$20, he'll bring him \$40. Hernandez says we'll see if he can turn \$10 into \$20 first. This doesn't seem like it is going to end well.

The announcers talk about FinJuice, who are here tonight. Well that's fast. They talk about the rest of the show as well.

Willie Mack vs. Daivari vs. Suicide vs. Trey Miguel

Daivari jumps Mack to start but gets double dropkicked to the floor for his efforts. Trey and Suicide miss some strikes and neither can snap off a Japanese armdrag. Mack is back up with a double flying shoulder to put them both down but misses a charge and crashes to the floor. Suicide backdrops Miguel

outside as well but Daivari shoves him off the top for a crash.

Back up and Daivari charges into an elbow, leaving Mack to nail him with a sitout powerbomb. Mack's Samoan drop plants Suicide and then Miguel gets the same, setting up the standing moonsault to both of them. Daivari gets in a shot on Mack but gets sent outside, leaving Miguel to hit a top rope Meteora to finish Suicide at 4:50.

**Rating:** C+. Take four people and let them do whatever they can to pop the crowd (or at least the one at home) for a few minutes. I'm surprised at how short it was but at least they didn't stop while it lasted. Miguel needed the win more than anyone else and hopefully this starts him on the path to something more positive. Good while it lasted, but it didn't last long enough.

Post match Trey runs into Sami Callihan and doesn't seem happy. Sami talks about how Trey can't win when everything matters, like when he lost at No Surrender. Trey storms off without saying anything.

Scott D'Amore congratulates TJP on his title defense when Ace Austin comes in with the Super X Cup. Austin wants the title shot but D'Amore makes a six man tag for next week. The winning team will face off in a triple threat the next week and the winner of that is #1 contender. That's as Impact of an idea as I've heard in a long time.

#### Hernandez vs. Matt Cardona

Brian Myers is here with Hernandez, who throws Cardona down with ease. Back up and Cardona low bridges him to the floor, setting up the big running flip dive. Myers isn't having this and offers a distraction, allowing Hernandez to break up Radio Silence with a low blow. Cardona gets knocked outside and we take a break. Back with Cardona fighting out of a bearhug and hitting a faceplant. The middle rope dropkick connects but

Hernandez Pounces the heck out of him. The Border Toss is broken up though and Radio Silence gives Cardona the pin at 7:52.

**Rating:** C-. Just a quick match here and Cardona gets a win to make him look a bit better around here. That's the kind of thing he hasn't had yet as it has mainly been him coasting on his reputation. I'm almost getting curious to see him face Myers, though they are going to have to do it right or it isn't going to do either of them that many favors. Hernandez was fine enough here, but anything is better than having him doing the deal with the money for months on end.

Post match Cardona says he isn't here to pass a torch, but to ignite his own. Myers gets in the ring to say this is his place and Cardona is just trying to copy him. Cardona asks what's up with that because they're best friends when the camera goes off. Hernandez jumps Cardona from behind but Eddie Edwards runs in for the save.

Video on FinJuice.

Tony Schiavone and Tony Khan (in heart shaped sunglasses) hope we had a good Valentine's Day but Khan didn't get any gifts. He did give Impact Wrestling what they needed the most: money! It helps that it's a charitable donation too and yes that was his idea. We run down the Dynamite card and Khan says Eddie Kingston reminds him of Michael Corleone.

Havok comes up to Nevaeh, who is sick of losing and asks where they're going from here. Should they even be a team? No not really, but almost no knockouts in this company should be. Tenille Dashwood comes out to suggest that she and Havok be a team but Nevaeh doesn't like the sound of it so let's have a match tonight. Dashwood is down.

Reno Scum vs. FinJuice

Striker loses his mind at FinJuice being here, again being far

more excited than he ever is about almost anyone in Impact. Finlay and Robinson start in on Thornstowe's arm and a double bulldog takes him down. Thornstowe is back with a spinebuster to Finlay (Brown: "SIT YOUR A\*\* DOWN!") and the Pit Stop makes it even worse. A missed charge in the corner allows the tag off to Robinson to clean house. Everything breaks down and there's a double dropkick to Luster. The PowerPlex finishes Thornstowe at 4:12.

**Rating:** C+. Not bad for mostly a debut squash and there is nothing wrong with that. Odds are this sets up a title match against the Good Brothers, because they're both big teams in Japan and that's the most amazing thing in the world. FinJuice is good, but Impact doesn't know how to not go over the top with it and that worries me going forward.

Post match here are the Good Brothers to call FinJuice young boys and we hear about the Brothers' success in Japan. Then they can buy some beers and have a welcome to Impact party, or just go and buy some of their Good Brothers whiskey. FinJuice says cool, but imply Anderson will pass out and lose control of his bodily functions.

At the bar, Rohit Raju blames Mahabali Shera for costing him the X-Division Title. Shera shoves him away and into James Storm, spilling his beer. Raju won't apologize or accept Storm's offer of a beer so Storm breaks the bottle over his head. Shera is ready to fight but Chris Sabin intervenes. Johnny Swinger comes in to offer them a night at his palace, which they actually accept. Then Swinger steals the bartender's tip.

Post break we go to the Palace where beer is consumed and James Storm...starts freestyle rapping (ok rhyming) to impress Alisha Edwards. Fallah Bahh sits down at the Blackjack table and says hit me, so Sabin does just that. Bahh loses his money again but Edwards says have a heart because Bahh is hurting. Swinger says you don't know what it's like to be hurting until

Bob Seger's ex girlfriend gives you crabs. Daddy.

### Tenille Dashwood vs. Nevaeh

Kaleb With A K is here but there is no Havok. Dashwood takes her down to start but gets tossed outside as we take an early break. Back with Dashwood in control thanks to some Kaleb With A K cheating, including a neckbreaker over the middle rope for two. A backbreaker gets Nevaeh out of trouble and she strikes away for the comeback.

An STO into a running basement clothesline gets two on Dashwood, as does a belly to back faceplant. Dashwood is right back with a whip into the corner, setting up the Taste of Tenille. The Spotlight Kick connects (with Striker shouting AUSSIE AUSSIE AUSSIE on the count because Matt Striker tries way too hard at his job) to finish Nevaeh at 9:54.

**Rating:** C-. Dashwood looked fine here but the Knockouts division continues to be pretty lifeless. It's just people having one match after another without much changing. Havok and Nevaeh splitting isn't exactly interesting as they've been together what? Maybe six months? There are some fine enough parts to the division, but it's nothing with any kind of spark to be seen.

Flashback Moment of the Week: Moose attacks Tommy Dreamer and Rich Swann at No Surrender. Three days ago.

Violent By Design is ready to take care of Jake Something, with Deaner promising to put Jake through a table to end everything. If not, he will face the consequences because nothing is bigger than this.

Susan wants to take out Jordynne Grace, ODB and Jazz for what they did last week but Deonna Purrazzo says that's not how champions do things. She flags down Scott D'Amore (who seems to be about three feet away) to ask about a Knockouts Tag Team Titles shot for Kimber Lee and Susan. D'Amore likes the idea

so they can have their shot....if they win a #1 contenders match over Jordynne Grace and Jazz next week. Susan seems....pleased? I think?

Here's what's coming next week.

### Moose vs. Tommy Dreamer

Old School rules. Dreamer hammers away to start and knocks Moose outside for a rake to the eyes. A reversed whip sends Moose into the steps and Dreamer poses a lot as we take a break. Back with Moose unloading with a trashcan lid as Striker gets all solemn about Dreamer being beaten up too much. Striker: "When do you say enough is enough?" The question people have been asking about Dreamer for years.

They head back inside with Moose hitting a dropkick and standing on Dreamer's face. Dreamer comes back with a testicular claw and a cutter for one as Moose isn't having this. A trashcan lid shot to the back rocks Moose a bit and a chair to the back does it again. The Dreamer DDT is countered with a shove onto the chair though and it's table time.

Dreamer spears Moose through the table in the corner, sending Striker into his biggest RAH RAH speech. Moose isn't having this and spears Dreamer for the pin at 14:36. Naturally Striker acts like this is Dreamer being shot, because it's not like THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS EVERY TIME HE HAS A MATCH.

**Rating:** D+. They used weapons, Dreamer got some hope spots, the other guy won with his finisher, commentary acted like Dreamer was Bruno Sammartino in his last run. I know Dreamer has been around forever and wrestled everywhere but he's regularly in some spot on TV and he's regularly getting beaten up. How many times am I supposed to get all emotional about it when that's what he's done for his entire career?

**Overall Rating:** C-. The opener almost singlehandedly saved this show as some of the stories and feuds they're going with

at the moment make me sigh rather heavily. Between treating Japan like the promised land, Tommy Dreamer as the focal point, the never ending saga of that wad of money, whatever the Knockouts are doing this week and having to pretend that Violent By Design is interesting, there is very little to get interested about on here. Throw in Striker making me want to pound a spike into my head and this is a pretty lame show. But hey, maybe AEW can show up again and mock the company one more time.

## Results

TJP b. Josh Alexander – Mamba Splash

Trey Miguel b. Suicide, Willie Mack and Daivari – Top rope Meteora to Suicide

Matt Cardona b. Hernandez – Radio Silence

FinJuice b. Reno Scum – PowerPlex to Thornstowe

Tenille Dashwood b. Nevaeh – Spotlight Kick

Moose b. Tommy Dreamer – Spear

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# Smackdown – February 19, 2021: Put It On The List

## Smackdown

Date: February 19, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

It's the go home show for Elimination Chamber and I'm really not sure how much more there is to add to the show. Most of the matches would seem to be set, but there is always room to add one or two more things. The main event this time around is a six man tag featuring all of the Elimination Chamber participants. Let's get to it.

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

Here's Edge to open things up. He has a big decision to make and this Sunday, things are going to get a lot clearer. You have the two World Titles on the line but Roman Reigns is being the smart one by facing the winner of the Elimination Chamber. That means there are thirteen possible opponents for Wrestlemania so he needs to start evaluating things.

Cue Roman Reigns, flanked by Jey Uso and Paul Heyman, for a pretty long entrance. Roman says there aren't thirteen possible opponents because there is one main event. You have Drew McIntyre who is a main eventer, but Roman Reigns is the main event. Edge thinks Reigns is sounding insecure because he needs to face Edge to be in the main event of Wrestlemania. Whomever Edge faces is the main event, be it anyone from Raw or Smackdown.

Cue Sami Zayn to say he's the real champion because he's the



champion of the people. As Sami asks his camera crew to film him pointing at the sign, Jey superkicks him down. Reigns stares Edge down and hands the title off to Heyman before opening his hands, seemingly in peace. Reigns walks over to Edge and whispers something in his ear (which we can't hear) before leaving with Heyman and Uso.

### Apollo Crews vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Big E., on his couch, is on commentary. Before the match, we get a quick interview from Apollo, talking about how he doesn't like being told to go back to catering. Nakamura runs him over for an early two to start but Crews nails a dropkick to send Nakamura outside. That's enough to send him into Big E.'s snack tray, which means the big staredown to send us to a break.

Back with Nakamura hitting his sliding German suplex out of the corner for two. Crews grabs a spinebuster for two but gets pulled into a cross armbreaker, which Nakamura turns into a rollup for the pin at 5:58. Not enough shown to rate but it was just a quick match to have Crews and Big E. out there.

Post match Crews jumps Nakamura again and goes for the steps but Big E. says that isn't happening. Big E. tells Crews to go to the back but Crews jumps him from behind with the steps. Crews isn't going back to catering and throws the steps and Big E. back inside. The referee intervenes and Big E. rolls to the floor, with Crews throwing the steps onto him (with the camera not showing the crash of course) to leave Big E. laying. Medics come out immediately and, after the break, Big E. is taken out on a stretcher.

I'm sure this sets up a title match, but wouldn't it be better to have Crews win, get denied a shot because Big E. has beaten him time after time, and then attack anyway? This made him feel like even more of a loser than he was when Big E. beat him over and over and that's not the best way to go.

As Big E. is wheeled out, here's Seth Rollins to say that was a tragedy, just like what happened last week. We see everyone walking out on Rollins last week, which earned Cesaro a big beating after the segment. As a result, Rollins has written a formal protest to WWE because everyone ruined last week out of fear. There are already millions who have embraced the vision for a better future, but the biggest loser is Cesaro. That's why Cesaro was taken out last week. Everyone should embrace the vision, unlike that loser Cesaro. Embrace the vision. This is really the best they have for Rollins?

Edge comes up to Kevin Owens in the back and says that he understands what it's like to have to keep getting back up. Owens appreciates that because he has come close to winning the Universal Title time after time over the last few months so now it is all he can think about. They appreciate the idea of facing each other at Wrestlemania.

Big E. is taken to the ambulance.

#### Riott Squad vs. Tamina/Natalya

Neither gets an entrance, as they shouldn't for the sake of saving some time. Riott chops away at Tamina to start before handing it off to Liv for some kicks of her own. Morgan's springboard something is knocked out of the air so it's off to Natalya to strike away. Riott comes back in for a Codebreaker into an STO for two as Billie Kay, in a Tamina shirt with Natalya ears, comes out. That's enough of a distraction for Tamina to hit a swinging Rock Bottom to finish Riott at 3:03.

**Rating:** D+. This was the latest match between one team thrown together and another team who isn't likely to make it to the title scene anytime soon. Instead, The Riott Squad is the kind of team that only exists for the sake of putting other teams over. The women's tag division is awful right now, but that has been the case for a pretty long time now. Just keep throwing teams together I guess, because it's not like the

division is going to mean anything anytime soon.

Billie comes in to celebrate with them and gets laid out.

Edge runs into King Corbin, who says he's the main event of Wrestlemania. Corbin talks about a \$39,000 watch but Edge holds up a phone, which tells the time and takes pictures.

It's time for Ding Dong Hello with Bayley, who says it's episode dos, which means two in case you're like Michael Cole and don't speak Spanish. Nia Jax and Shayna Baszler are the guests and come in through the door, with Jax talking about how Bayley shouldn't be upset that they took the titles from her. They're glad Bayley got rid of Sasha Banks, because Banks is such a waste of time. Like, almost as bad as Bianca Belair.

Cue Reginald, who says Banks is like a fine wine and the two of them are like a boxed wine. He thinks Belair and Banks could take the Tag Team Titles so here's Banks to interrupt. Banks doesn't like Reginald speaking for him but promises to beat Belair at Wrestlemania. Cue Belair to say not so fast and issue the six person tag challenge.

Bianca Belair/Reginald/Sasha Banks vs. Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler/Bayley

Banks strikes away at Baszler to start and manages to take her down, but Reginald comes in for the stretching and then leaves. Jax takes Banks down so Bayley, in street clothes, comes in to stomp away. Baszler starts working on the leg but Jax misses a running splash in the corner. We settle down to Nia yelling at Reginald about how she isn't the boxed wine. Reginald starts picking up the pace with the dodges, only to get run over again. Bayley and Baszler beat on Banks outside as Nia catches Reginald's crossbody. A double dropkick to the back puts Reginald on top of Jax for the surprise pin at 5:05.

**Rating:** D+. I'm still not sure where they're going with this whole thing but it's still weird to see men and women in the

same match. Jax losing doesn't mean anything anymore after how things have been going for her in recent weeks, but this was certainly a strange way to go with everything. Throw in the fact that it might be a one off deal and it's even weirder.

Cesaro feels sorry for Seth Rollins, who had the chance to come back as someone new but then did the same thing he did before he left. There is time to deal with Rollins later, because Cesaro need to go win the Elimination Chamber and then the Universal Title. Edge comes up and Wrestlemania is teased.

### Rey Mysterio/Dominik Mysterio vs. Alpha Academy

Dolph Ziggler and Robert Roode are on commentary, where they insist that they are not ducking the Street Profits. Dominik can't get very far by trying to wrestle Gable so it's off to Rey vs. Otis. That goes badly for Rey as well as it's a World's Strongest Slam into a big splash. Instead of covering, Otis hits a splash, followed by a few more, which is a DQ at 1:30 when Otis won't listen to the referee telling him to stop.

Post match Rey is destroyed some more, including a middle rope splash.

Edge and Daniel Bryan bond over bringing their careers back to life. Bryan appreciates that and thinks Edge can thank him by challenging him after Bryan wins the title on Sunday.

Post break, Rey is very slowly helped to the back.

Daniel Bryan, Cesaro and Kevin Owens discuss how often Kevin Owens has turned on people. Bryan: "There have been so many times. I should have made a list." Owens says they won't have to worry about a Stunner tonight. Just worry about it on Sunday. Or maybe two, three, four. Cesaro: "At least he's honest." Bryan: "Is he?"

Reginald brings Carmella some wine and tries to hide the fact

that he was in the match earlier. She's not mad, because she knows he'll do the right thing. Or else. Carmella drinks the wine, deems it disgusting, and throws it in his face.

Sasha Banks and Bianca Belair are getting a Women's Tag Team Title match on Sunday.

Sami Zayn/King Corbin/Jey Uso vs. Daniel Bryan/Kevin Owens/Cesaro

Edge is on commentary as Bryan forearms Uso into the corner. Cesaro comes in for a double slam so Jey bails over to Corbin for the tag. A few shots to the face mean it's off to Bryan to uppercut Sami into the corner as well. Corbin comes back in for some knees to the ribs but it's right back to Cesaro to clean house. Some uppercuts put Sami on the floor but Corbin throws him back in like a good partner. That's fine with Cesaro, who can't quite get the Swing. Instead Corbin comes back in and gets Swung into a commercial.

Back with the Swing continuing (now that's a well done editing trick) but Cesaro gets sent outside and thrown over the announcers' table. Paul Heyman has joined commentary as Cesaro gets beaten up in the corner, including some choking from Corbin. Uso comes back in and hammers away, allowing the tag back to Corbin to continue the hammering away.

Cesaro finally gets in a shot to Corbin and the hot tag brings in Bryan, which Cole and Heyman ignore to keep bickering. Everything breaks down with Owens hitting the Cannonball off the apron to Uso. Zayn rolls Bryan up for two and hits the Blue Thunder Bomb for two with Cesaro making the save. Corbin knocks Cesaro outside as Bryan butterfly superplexes Zayn down, setting up the YES Lock for the tap at 13:07.

**Rating:** C+. This was fun, though it wasn't like it means anything other than some minor momentum for Sunday. I like Bryan getting a little push, as they really could go in a bunch of different ways for the Chamber. Bryan is certainly

one of them, but it's not like there is any secret to the fact that this is all about Edge vs. Reigns at Wrestlemania in the end.

Post match the Parade of Finishers is on, with Edge getting in a spear on Uso but getting speared down by Roman Reigns to end the show (note that Reigns just sticks his hand out so Heyman can hand him the title, because that's what Reigns sees him as being good for).

**Overall Rating:** C. The reason this show worked out so well was that it didn't drag. They kept things moving and got to the point, even if they are still trying to hide the fact that Reigns vs. Edge seems all but carved into stone for Wrestlemania. I'm not sure what a lot of the other people are going to get to do, but they had a nice build up to Sunday, which is a nice start on the way there. Good enough show, and it did a nice job of advancing a lot of stories.

### Results

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Apollo Crews – Cradle

Natalya/Tamina b. Riott Squad – Swinging Rock Bottom to Riott

Bianca Belair/Reginald/Sasha Banks b. Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler/Bayley – Crossbody to Jax

Rey Mysterio/Dominik Mysterio b. Alpha Academy via DQ when Otis continued attacking Rey

Daniel Bryan/Cesaro/Kevin Owens b. Jey Uso/King Corbin/Sami Zayn – YES Lock to Zayn

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# NXT UK – February 18, 2021: They Like Power Around Here

## NXT UK

Date: February 18, 2021

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

It's hoss fight night as Rampage Brown faces Joe Coffey. Actually it isn't so much of a hoss fight night as much as it is a hoss fight main event, as we also have the Heritage Cup on the line between two decidedly non-hosses. Things have been good around here so far so hopefully they can keep it up this week. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Heritage Cup: A-Kid vs. Sha Samuels

Kid is defending and they start round one with a feeling out process. They take turns taking each other to the mat with neither being able to get anywhere. Kid is sent face first into the buckle to put Samuels in the first control but he can't grab a choke in the corner. He can however put on a cobra clutch on the mat with the shoulder pulled back (the

Butcher's Hook) and Kid taps in a hurry at 2:35 of the first round (seemingly playing strategy to avoid extra pain).

Round two begins with Kid charging at him but getting taken down to the mat to work on the shoulder some more. Samuels tries to go for the arm but Kid takes it to the mat, only to get his arm cranked on again. Kid is back up with a choke but Samuels goes straight to the rope. They tumble out to the floor and the round ends.

Round three begins with an exchange of rollups for two each but Kid starts going after the knee. A kick to the chest gets two and a dropkick finishes Samuels at 1:23 of the round to tie it up. Round four begins with Kid rolling him up for a fast two. Samuels runs him over for the same but walks into an enziguri for two more.

Kid goes up for a high crossbody, only to get caught in a Michinoku Driver instead. The Hook goes on again but the bell rings just in time to end the round. Round five begins with Kid pulling him straight into a cross armbreaker. That's broken up so Kid kicks him in the face, only to charge into a spinebuster for two. Kid escapes the Hook again and grabs the Rings of Saturn to make Samuels tap for the 2-1 win at 2:25 of the fifth round (13:49 total).

**Rating:** B. These things grew on me quite a bit during the tournament and they are still holding up today. They are rather similar to Ring of Honor's Pure Rules matches but these are kept sporadic enough that they feel like a treat rather than something that overstays its welcome. A-Kid has something too and I could go with seeing him step up after he's done with this division.

Video on Rampage Brown vs. Joe Coffey, including a look at their time against each other in Progress. Various UK names like William Regal, Drew McIntyre and Sheamus talk about how awesome this should be to really make it feel important.



Walter has tied Pete Dunne's record as longest United Kingdom Champion and breaks the record tomorrow.

### Ben Carter vs. Josh Morrell

Carter is taken to the mat to start but uses Johnny Saint's distraction to escape, which pops the heck out of Nigel. An armdrag into an armbar and sets up a headlock on the mat to keep Morrell down. That's broken up and Morrell grabs a hurricanrana for two, only to get suplexed for the same. The front facelock has Morrell in more trouble but he reverses into a surfboard but Carter reverses into one of his own. Back up and Morrell gets two off a hiptoss but Carter grabs the suplex neckbreaker. The frog splash finishes for Carter at 6:28.

**Rating:** C. Carter continues to look polished but above all else, I want to see him win. He's small enough that he plays a rather good underdog who needs to come from behind to win. Throw in some good technical abilities and a high flying finisher that looks good without being too flashy and it works well. Morrell looks good too, though he isn't the one who is going to get pushed at the moment.

We get a press conference for the Women's Title match between Meiko Satomura and champion Kay Lee Ray. Ray loves the challenge, Meiko loves the challenge and has a mission, Ray wants the best in the world, they stare each other down to wrap it up.

Video on Nina Samuels vs. Xia Brookside.

Tyler Bate gets some air outside of the Performance Center and is ready for whatever comes at him.

### Aleah James vs. Dani Luna

The rather strong Luna powers her into the corner to start and easily blocks a crucifix attempt. James gets tossed down again

and there's a suplex to send her back into the corner. Luna's powerbomb is countered into a hurricanrana for two so she is right back with a hard clothesline. A forearm puts James on the apron and Luna catches her springboard without much effort. Luna fireman's carries her into a sitout powerbomb for the pin at 3:33.

**Rating:** D+. Just a squash here as they seem interested in Luna as a bit of a thing here. That's not the worst idea in the world as having someone with that kind of power can be a fine choice for a quick push. I'm not sure how far she can go but even a short term deal would work out well enough.

Jinny and Joseph Conners call out Piper Niven. I'm not sure what it is but Jinny just isn't clicking with me.

Video on next week's Tag Team Title match with Gallus defending against Pretty Deadly.

### Rampage Brown vs. Joe Coffey

They power each other around to start with Coffey grabbing the required rough headlock. That's broken up and they run the ropes until Coffey's leapfrog is countered into a powerslam. Brown hammers him into the corner but it's too early for the Doctor Bomb. Instead Coffey takes him to the mat and hammers away, setting up a backbreaker to set up his liver shot later. The straitjacket choke goes on, followed by the jumping elbow for two on Brown.

A running basement clothesline gets two and Coffey blasts him with crossface shots to the face. What looked like All The Best For The Bells is cut off by a hard clothesline from Brown before he wins another slugout. A big boot gives Brown two and a hard suplex is good for the same. Coffey fights out of a fireman's carry though and snaps off a belly to belly.

The running splash in the corner sets up a shotgun dropkick to put Brown on the floor. Coffey follows him out but misses a

charge into the steps. The arm is sent into the steps and they're already back inside. Coffey manages a spinning high crossbody for two but All The Best For The Bells is blocked with a kick to the arm. Brown grabs the Doctor Bomb for the pin at 11:16.

**Rating:** B. Take two big power brawlers and let them beat on each other for a pretty good while. Brown is the one they are pushing at the moment and that's a good idea. He does his thing well and beating Coffey feels like an important deal. Good slugout here and I liked it as much as I expected to, meaning it worked well.

We get the big, delayed, respectful handshake to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Two good matches make up for the weaker stuff in the middle and that was a fine way to use a little over an hour. This show continues to be rather solid more often than not and that was the case again this week with a nice mixture of a few styles to make it all work out. We could be seeing some nice stuff from these people going forward and that's a rare thing to say in WWE these days.

### Results

A-Kid b. Sha Samuels 2-1

Ben Carter b. Josh Morrell – Frog splash

Dani Luna b. Aleah James – Fireman's carry powerbomb

Rampage Brown b. Joe Coffey – Doctor Bomb

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# NXT – February 17, 2021: Vengeance Was His

## NXT

Date: February 17, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph

It's the fallout show from Takeover: Vengeance Day, which was certainly a noteworthy show. Not only do we have two new Dusty Classic winners, but the big story came at the end, as the Undisputed Era seemed to split up. That might be long overdue, but you could also say it was too soon. Let's get to it.

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

Long recap of Takeover, including Adam Cole turning on the Undisputed Era.

Commentary talks about the show but here's Kyle O'Reilly to interrupt. He has watched the clip time after time and doesn't understand. The Undisputed Era was supposed to be different but then Cole kicked him in the face. Kyle needs to know what is going on so Cole can come out here and tell him. Now yes Kyle will probably punch him in the face, but get out here.

Cue Roderick Strong, which doesn't make Kyle very happy. Strong says Cole did everything based solely off of emotion and he knows Cole regrets...and Kyle doesn't want to hear it.

He wants Cole himself out here and doesn't need Strong playing peacekeeper. Strong gets on the apron but Kyle keeps shouting for Cole to get out here.

Cue Finn Balor, which only makes Kyle even madder. Balor says O'Reilly may want Cole but he'll have to get in line. Balor knew that he shouldn't have accepted O'Reilly's hand on Sunday but here are Oney Lorcan and Danny Burch to jump Balor and Strong. Pete Dunne joins in and O'Reilly gets beaten down as well, with Balor grabbing his leg.

Earlier today, Santos Escobar said the Karrion Kross match wasn't happening tonight because he doesn't like being threatened.

William Regal isn't happy and says Escobar can face Kross next week or be stripped of the Cruiserweight Title. Also tonight, Lorcan/Burch/Dunne vs. Balor/O'Reilly/Strong.

#### The Way vs. Shotzi Blackheart/Ember Moon

Johnny Gargano has missing posters for Austin Theory, who is still gone after being kidnapped by Dexter Lumis at Takeover. Johnny even sits in on commentary for a bonus. Candice LeRae gets taken into the corner and then knocked outside as we take a very early break. Back with the Way getting caught by stereo kicks to the face but Indi Hartwell finally kicks Ember in the face to take over.

The front facelock goes on but we cut to the parking lot where a white van pulls up. Back in the arena and Ember slips off of Hartwell's shoulders but walks into a side slam for two. LeRae comes back in to crank on both arms and hands it back to Hartwell to forearm Moon in the face. Moon gets sent outside for a springboard dive from LeRae, but we cut back to the van again. That's enough for Gargano to go check it out as we take a break. Back with Shotzi coming in off the hot tag to clean house but Hartwell drops her with a clothesline to put everyone down.

We cut back to the parking lot where Gargano can't get in the van, which doesn't seem to have anyone inside. LeRae hits a low superkick for two on Blackheart and everything breaks down. Hartwell hangs Moon in the ropes as Gargano is back with the still tied up (and in his underwear) Theory. LeRae goes to celebrate, leaving Moon to roll Hartwell up for the pin at 16:28.

**Rating:** D+. Well that was long and they had multiple parts of the match dedicated to the Lumis/Theory stuff, which is certainly going to continue because everything Lumis does has to go on forever. Moon and Blackheart get back on the winning track, as apparently they are continuing as a team. Maybe they could face the Women's Tag Team Champions, assuming the titles come here, where they would make more sense.

Pat McAfee joins us from his plane, saying that he told us so about Adam Cole. Feel free to tweet him about how awesome and right he was.

Kushida says he is glad he faced Johnny Gargano and wants to do it again. Bronson Reed comes in and says he was impressed but he might need to beat Kushida to get his own title shot. That's cool with Kushida and Reed leaves. Cue Malcolm Bivens, who suggests Kushida wrestle tonight.

### Leon Ruff vs. Isaiah Scott

Ruff armdrags him down a few times but Scott grabs the rope to avoid another one. A dropkick sets up an armdrag into an armbar to have Scott down for a bit. That's a short bit though as he's back up with a running boot to the face and a powerbomb backbreaker. A hard running dropkick in the corner puts Ruff on the floor and Scott kicks him in the face again.

Back in and we hit the bodyscissors as Scott is getting rather cocky. Ruff fights up with some chops and an elbow to the face, followed by the spinning cutter out of the corner. Scott has to grab the rope for the save, which is a little closer

than I would have expected. Some forearms rock Scott again and a double stomp to the back keeps him in trouble. The crucifix bomb gives Ruff the surprise pin at 5:25.

**Rating:** C. I'm hoping this is the kind of loss that is going to shake Scott up a bit because he has lost time after time around here. You would think that WWE would want to push him a bit based on his podcast alone but nothing has clicked so far. I do like that Ruff wasn't just a goon who loses everything after his big story was over.

Post match Scott beats the heck out of Ruff, including a release Death Valley Driver into the corner. Scott says Ruff is handed everything while he has to scratch and claw for everything. This is Swerve's time and Swerve's house? Where is his North American Title shot opportunity?

#### Kacy Catanzaro/Kayden Carter vs. Aliyah/Jessi Kamea

During the entrances, we see Carter and Catanzaro getting beaten down by Xia Li last week. We also get a chat from the two of them, who want Li back but also want a win tonight. Catanzaro spins out of a fireman's carry and armdrags Kamea into the corner. Stereo kicks to the head get two and it's already back to Kacy for a flipping ankles scissors for two.

Cue Boa for a distraction so Kamea can get in a forearm and it's off to Aliyah to hammer away. A combination wheelbarrow faceplant/cutter gets two on Carter but she's over for the tag to Catanzaro in a hurry. House is cleaned and a neckbreaker/top rope splash combination finishes Kamea at 2:34. Catanzaro continues to look more and more comfortable every week.

Post break, Kacy goes to talk to Xia Li, who grabs her hand and marks it, meaning they're on for next week. Well so much for Catanzaro's rise, as this is going to hurt.

Malcolm Bivens thinks Kushida should face Tyler Rust tonight.

Here's Beth Phoenix in the ring to present the Dusty Classic trophy. After a video on both tournaments, here is MSK for the first presentation. The team is rather fired up and call out Danny Burch/Oney Lorcan for their title shot on March 3. They promise to win the titles but there is something else that needs to be done. Beth brings out Dakota Kai and Raquel Gonzalez to present them with....apparently the same trophy as we only have one.

They're proud of their win but here are Shayna Baszler and Nia Jax to interrupt. MSK even holds the ropes for the, but Jax scares them off. Kai introduces Gonzalez to the champs, including saying that Shayna ran away after Rhea Ripley beat her up. Gonzalez brings up beating Ripley in the Last Woman Standing match but Baszler laughs at the idea of Kai being tough.

Kai offers to kick Baszler's head off but Jax says she is here to honor Dusty Rhodes. They worked together in NXT and remembers him calling her a big bad\*\*\* b\*\*\*\*. Gonzalez says Dusty never met her and gets in Jax's face. Shayna says they'll be back in two weeks for some humiliation. Gonzalez promises to put her boot so far up Jax's hole that we'll never find it. MSK found popcorn somewhere in there. This was kind of a mess, and the single trophy thing was a little amusing.

Balor and O'Reilly seem to argue in the parking lot but we can't hear them.

We see the still amazing Cameron Grimes Is Rich music video.

Grimes has wrecked his car but who cares? He'll just buy another one.

Toni Storm jumped Io Shirai during a photo shoot and kicked her in the face.

Kushida vs. Tyler Rust



Malcolm Bivens is here with Rust. Kushida goes for the arm to start but gets shoved into the corner. That means it's time to go after the arm again, only to have Rust take him down by the arm as well. Back up and Kushida nails the handspring elbow, setting up a bridging rollup for two. That earns him a shot to the face from Rust but Kushida manages an enziguri from the apron.

Back in and Kushida gets pulled off the top rope for a crash and it's time for more Rust arm cranking. Kushida is sent outside and we take a break. We come back with Kushida striking away but missing a running kick. He goes to Rust's arm again though and some Kawada kicks put Rust right back in trouble. Rust doesn't seem to mind and grabs a front facelock suplex into an ax kick for two.

Two more kicks to the head get two more and Bivens is annoyed at the kickout. Rust grabs a rear naked choke before switching to something like a bow and arrow. That's countered into a rollup for two and Kushida kicks him in the arm again. Kushida has to elbow his way out of a fireman's carry and the Hoverboard Lock goes on for the tap at 11:16.

**Rating:** C+. Good stuff here as Kushida manages to get back on track after a heck of a match on Sunday. I'm still not sure what they're doing with Rust at the moment, but he is having some pretty good matches and keeping himself out there. The midcard is getting beefed up around here and that is always a good thing.

Video on Zoey Stark.

We look at LA Knight debuting at Takeover.

Knight knows that everyone thinks he's already the best NXT star of all time. He'll be the biggest star ever around here and that is just a fact of life. If he's exactly the same thing as he was as Eli Drake, was there a point to the change other than owning the name?

## Zoey Stark vs. Valentina Feroz

The bad name generator is back. Stark grabs a suplex and then drives her into the corner as the beatdown is on in a hurry. Feroz avoids a stomp though and judo throws her down for two but Stark is back with some knees to the ribs. A release hot shot in the corner sets up a kick to the face into a half nelson suplex to rock Feroz again. The running kick to the face into a flip over knee to the face (something like a belly to back suplex flipped into a GTS) for the pin at 2:40. Stark looked good enough but needs some more polish.

Scarlett says Santos Escobar is out of time and Karrion Kross says Escobar's destiny has been decided. Even if Escobar doesn't show up next week, Kross will catch up with him anyway. Tick tock.

## Pete Dunne/Oney Lorcan/Danny Burch vs. Finn Balor/Roderick Strong/Kyle O'Reilly

Lorcan drives O'Reilly into the corner to start but he's right back with some forearms to the face. Balor comes in to work on the arm, with O'Reilly coming back in to stay on said arm. It's already back to Balor as Strong seems to be ignored on the apron. Lorcan finally drives Balor into the corner but Balor armbars Burch down without much trouble. Strong comes in to cut off the left out idea and armbars Burch as well.

It's off to Dunne to work on the arm as well, only to have Strong hit a running kick to the face for two. Strong gets sent outside where Lorcan and Burch throw the steps around for no apparent reason. The distraction lets Dunne go after Strong but he snaps Dunne's throat across the top. The tag brings in O'Reilly to strike away but Dunne blasts him with a forearm.

We take a break and come back with O'Reilly fighting out of a chinlock to dragon screw legwhip Dunne into the corner. Lorcan comes in but gets backslidden for two. O'Reilly manages a clothesline and, after bouncing off the rope, rolls over for

the hot tag to Balor. House is cleaned in a hurry with Balor and Dunne being left in the ring. Dunne scores with an enziguri but Balor scores with the Sling Blade. Burch tries to bring in a title belt but the referee stops him only to get bumped.

Cue Adam Cole as the referee gets bumped again and there's a bicycle kick to O'Reilly. A brainbuster onto the steps drops O'Reilly again but Strong cuts Lorcan off. Strong picks up the title. That earns him a Pele kick from Balor (who didn't see who it was), allowing Dunne to hit the Bitter End on Balor for the pin at 12:03.

**Rating:** B-. Good stuff here and the important thing is they set up a few different angles. Odds are this sets up Cole vs. O'Reilly and Balor vs. Dunne II, both of which could be nice matches to counteract the power of Shaquille O'Neal on March 3. I'm not sure if they would do both of those on the same show, but the future is looking pretty bright, which is always nice to see.

Post match everyone else leaves so here's Cole to superkick Balor and hold up the title to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a show that set things going forward for the next few months after Takeover and there is nothing wrong with that. It also set up a few people into some slightly higher levels and hopefully that extends into the future. Throw in McAfee being back and this should be a fun way to go in the next few weeks. NXT is picking up a bit again and that's worth a smile.

### Results

Ember Moon/Shotzi Blackheart b. The Way – Rollup to Hartwell

Leon Ruff b. Isaiah Scott – Crucifix bomb

Kacy Catanzaro/Kayden Carter b. Aliyah/Jessi Kamea –

Neckbreaker/top rope splash combination to Kamea

Kushida b. Tyler Rust – Hoverboard Lock

Zoey Stark b. Valentina Feroz – Flip into a knee to the face

Oney Lorcan/Danny Burch/Pete Dunne b. Roderick Strong/Kyle  
O'Reilly/Finn Balor – Bitter End to Balor

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# Monday Night Raw – September 18, 2006: And Then We Breathe

## Monday Night Raw

Date: September 18, 2006

Location: Bell Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Attendance: 13,500

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Unforgiven has come and gone and the big story is John Cena winning the WWE Title from Edge in a pretty good TLC match. Other than that, DX defeated the McMahons and Big Show in what felt like the big blowoff to their feud but you never can tell around here. I'm curious as to where

things go as we have a long time before the next Raw pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here's John Cena to get things going and the booing is on before Lilian Garcia even finishes saying his name. After smiling at the booing, Cena says this is absolute chaos. The booing cuts him off again before Cena manages to say he was hit in the head a bunch of times last night and he can't even remember what day it. Wait. It's becoming clear now. The champ is here.

More booing makes Cena say that he knows there is a bit of unrest in the Force but Cena has been going through a lot in recent months. Like 3000 spears, 2000 sneak attacks, 1000 shots to the head, 1000 jokes involving Lita and head, and now we're finally done. Cue Edge and Lita, with the former saying he has a rematch clause.

Cena says he respected Edge for the fight he put up last night and, after a CENA SUCKS chant, Cena says Edge has two options. He can have a one man live sex celebration and go screw himself, or have some backbone and cash in his rematch right now. Edge says this isn't Canada because this is Canada's inbred cousin, Montreal. He goes into a rant about how he survived last night and never gave up like the people in this arena would do.

Edge is going to take the title back, but not here in front of these people. The fans suddenly like the idea of Cena beating Edge up but Edge snaps, talking about everything Cena took from him last night. Edge wants revenge so here are Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch for the beatdown, with Edge talking about how they beat up DX last week. Cue DX, with Edge leaving Cade and Murdoch to get beaten down. Coach, six man tag.

Post break, Coach has secured a room where wrestlers can send Vince McMahon well wishes after last night. Shelton Benjamin is up first and he isn't sure why he wasn't Vince's partner last night. Shelton: "It's because I'm black isn't it?" Coach shuffles him off as Shelton asks why

he can't talk about Affirmative Action.

### Umaga vs. Kane

Rematch from last night. Lawler: "I'm surprised they're not still fighting. Well they're going to be still fighting!" Umaga wastes no time in suplexing him down but the referee intercepts a chair from Armando Alejandro Estrada. The referee gets crushed so Umaga uses the chair for two on Kane as a second referee comes in. We take a break and come back with Umaga hitting a Samoa drop but Kane hits a flying shoulder. Umaga's throat is snapped across the top rope but he knocks a chair out of Kane's hands this time. Kane avoids a charge though and hits a top rope clothesline. That's not enough so Kane chairs him in the head for the DQ.

**Rating:** C. This was better than last night as Kane put up a much better fight rather than getting beaten up for most of the match. They're likely setting up some kind of a gimmick match down the line, but I'd assume it is going to be on a big Raw rather than the next pay per view. I'm not sure I can imagine this feud having the legs to go two more months but they have surprised me before.

Post match Kane hits him two more times to finally put Umaga down. Kane kidnaps Estrada and takes him to the back.

Post break, Kane is ready to do something with a large spike but Umaga makes the save. Umaga and Estrada leave, allowing Kane to do what he does when villains leave him alone.

Maria things Vince is Jim McMahon, former Chicago Bears quarterback. Cue the Spirit Squad with the air horn to challenge Ric Flair to a match and cheer for Vince.

### Ric Flair vs. Johnny

The rest of the Squad stays on the stage for a change. Johnny hammers away in the corner to start but gets chopped against the ropes for his efforts. They go outside with Johnny managing a backdrop and hammering away back inside. That means more chops and a chop block to Flair for a change, setting up the Figure Four. Naturally Flair knows how to get out

of that in a hurry and hits his own chop block. Flair tries the Figure Four but gets reversed into a small package, which is reversed into another small package to give Flair the pin.

**Rating:** D+. This wasn't meant to be anything but they might be setting up something bigger in the future. Flair beating one of the members of the Spirit Squad isn't going to hurt them so this isn't exactly worth being annoyed over. At least they got in and out in a hurry, because there wasn't much of a need to do anything more than this.

Lita wants to talk to Vince about the Women's Title but here's Mickie James to come in and makes jokes about Lita's prowess with men. A slap ensues and odds are we'll revisit this later.

We recap the brawl to set up the main event.

Here's Randy Orton for a chat. Orton says that last night was rough, because he needed stitches in his mouth but still won his match. He is the future of WWE....but here are Johnny Nitro and Melina to interrupt. Nitro calls himself the future of the industry and he has a message for everyone who finds him boring, and he holds up the title. It's not like Orton has a title of his own, and that's because Orton has been coasting on his title for years. Orton says he can take the title and Melina anytime he wants.

Cue Chris Masters to say he should be the Intercontinental Champion because no one breaks the Masterlock. Nitro and Orton break up laughing because Masters has lost two weeks in a row to "a guy who should be busing tables." Cue Carlito to say Orton did win last night and the brawl is on. Super Crazy and then Jeff Hardy run in to join the brawl so Coach makes a Six Pack Challenge for the title. Nitro panics.

Intercontinental Title: Johnny Nitro vs. Chris Masters vs. Super Crazy vs. Randy Orton vs. Jeff Hardy vs. Carlito

Nitro is defending and it's one fall to a finish with no tags. Joined in progress with everyone brawling in the corners and a few near falls without much drama. Crazy breaks up Nitro's cover on Hardy and the rapid fire saves begin. Carlito hits a springboard moonsault to Masters for two

with Nitro making a save.

Nitro gets knocked down and we hit probably the fifteenth cover in about three minutes with several saves being made. Everyone but Crazy goes to the floor but Nitro pulls him outside and tries a big dive, only to get caught. Crazy hits his own big moonsault to the floor and we take a break.

Back with everyone brawling some more and even more near falls. Carlito hammers on Nitro in the corner but hits a spinning crossbody for two on Orton. There's a Downward Spiral to give Carlito two on Nitro but Jeff starts to clean house. Orton, Hardy and Nitro are left alone in the ring and we hit the parade of finishers. Hardy shoves Crazy off the top and nails the Swanton on Masters but Nitro steals the pin to retain.

**Rating:** C+. I'm not sure how to rate this as there wasn't much of a flow to it as the whole thing was built around one near fall after another. There were probably two dozen covers that were shown, not even including the stuff that probably took place during the break. It did do a nice job of building up the drama though and that's a nice way to make Nitro look like a bigger deal, even if he just stole the pin to retain.

Smackdown Rebound.

Cryme Tyme steals a guy's van after he dares to ask them for directions to the country club.

Coach is ready for some more messages to Vince but DX comes in. They talk about having Stockholm Syndrome but they're glad it's over. We get a video on the feud, focusing on Vince being humiliated. DX is sprayed on the camera to wrap things up.

### Candice Michelle vs. Lita

Lita sends her into the corner to start as the fans REALLY don't like Lita so far. Candice comes back with some bad right hands and Lita is knocked outside. That earns Candice a trip to the floor and a ram into the apron, meaning Lita can smile a lot as they head inside again. The chinlock goes on and Lita cuts off the comeback by pulling her down by



the hair. There's a Russian legsweep for two and Lita shoves her in the face a few times. The moonsault is loaded up but here's Mickie James for a distraction, allowing Candice to hit a powerbomb out of the corner for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing much to see here but I think you know where they're going for the next big (work with me here) women's feud. The women's division is already feeling the lack of Trish Stratus, as you can only do so much with a division that only has about three members and then one of them leaves. Candice is a long way off from being ready to take a top spot, but she seems a bit further along than a few others.

Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch remind Edge that they are fresh after last night and are ready for the main event. Edge likes that kind of thinking.

#### Edge/Lance Cade/Trevor Murdoch vs. John Cena/D-Generation X

Lita is here too. The brawl is on in a hurry with the bad guys being cleared out without much effort. We settle down to Cena shouldering Cade down and mocking Edge on the apron. Shawn comes in but gets caught with an atomic drop from Cade and a running big boot from Murdoch to take over.

The chops don't do Shawn much good as Murdoch runs him over for another near fall. Edge comes in to grab the chinlock and Murdoch adds a big elbow for two. The front facelock doesn't last long and the hot tag brings in HHH to clean house. Everything breaks down and HHH cuts off Edge's chair shot with a spinebuster. Shawn picks up the chair and cleans house for the DQ.

**Rating:** C-. Totally run of the mill main event six man tag with a bit of a surprise ending. The wrestling was fine and the ending gives us a reason to come back to more of this later on. I'm not sure where that leads, but a mini feud of some sort between these guys could give us a nice bridge towards the October pay per view.

Post match Cade and Murdoch are cleared out so Edge gets beaten up to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was just a placeholder show after the pretty big pay per view. There was no reason to do anything more than an easy night here as Raw has spent the last month or so setting everything up for Unforgiven so this worked as well as anything else. Nothing you needed to see, but at least it worked out well enough.

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## New Column: The Edge Of Interesting

Something isn't clicking so far.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-edge-interesting/>

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# Dynamite – February 17, 2021: That's AEW

## Dynamite

Date: February 17, 2021

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross

Things were pretty good last week and hopefully that means AEW has some momentum coming into this week. I'm not sure what that is going to mean this time around but we're rapidly approaching Revolution next month. That show could use a card so maybe we can get some more this time around. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

### Hangman Page/Matt Hardy vs. Hybrid 2

Matt knocks Evans down to start and Page's running shooting star press gets two. The BK Bomb puts Hardy in trouble and Evans snaps his throat across the top. Angelico spins over into a rollup for two and he slaps on a front facelock to drag Matt back into the corner. Matt avoids a handspring elbow and the hot tag brings in Page to clean house, including a Ron Simmons spinebuster to Angelico.

Page powerbombs Angelico and the powerbombs a diving Evans out of the air onto Angelico for a scary landing. The Buckshot Lariat is loaded up but Matt tags himself in, meaning it's a backbreaker/neckbreaker combination for two. A Downward Spiral into a Phoenix splash gets two more but Page Buckshot Lariats both of them at once. The Twist of Fate finishes Angelico at 7:05.

**Rating:** C. I really cannot bring myself to care about Page and Matt teaming together, mainly because it involves Hardy's latest character. It comes off more like Hardy's latest idea, which has been the case so many times now that it is hard to care. Page deserves better than this, and hopefully he isn't stuck here for more than a few weeks at most.

Post match Matt says he's glad Page signed with him for 30% of Page's money. Page breaks the news, saying that Matt should have read the contract. Matt sent it straight to his lawyer, but here's the Jacksonville Jaguars' mascot with a copy of what Matt signed last week. The contract says they'll be facing each other at Revolution. If Matt loses, Page gets 100% of Matt's earnings from the first quarter of 2021. Matt: "YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CARNY! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BAMBOOZLED ME!"

Matt wants Page's first quarter earnings up as well and Page shakes on it. The Jaguars' mascot kicks Page low and it's Isaiah Kassidy. Matt offers the Hybrid 2 \$3,700 to to beat up Matt Hardy so the beatdown is on, but Negative One sends out the Dark Order for the save. Matt has to duck the Buckshot Lariat and runs off. Page gives the Dark Order a thankful look.

So let me make sure I have this straight. Since Kassidy had a copy of the contract, we can assume that Matt was faking his outrage over the different terms. So Page assumed that Matt didn't know what was going on and felt the need to bring out the Jaguars' mascot to further humiliate Matt? Who found out about Page's plans with the mascot and planted Kassidy in the suit after paying/attacking the regular person playing the mascot? That's quite the wacky plan.

Santana and Ortiz are ready for their first Tag Team Title shot (Really?) because it's time for the Young Bucks to pay their dues. MJF says of course he wasn't recording Sammy Guevara last week when there was already a cameraman in the room with the. Chris Jericho doesn't want to hear it because

MJF goaded Sammy into quitting the Inner Circle. The rest of it is Sammy's fault though and now Sammy has made the dumbest decision of all. Sammy is now dead to him and Jericho never wants to hear that name again. Tonight it's about bringing gold back to the Inner Circle so let's go win some championships.

We recap some of the first round of the Japanese half of the #1 contenders tournament for the Women's Title. That's quite the effort to set up a title match.

### #1 Contenders Tournament First Round: Riho vs. Serena Deeb

Non-title and Deeb has a bad knee coming in. They go the mat to start with Deeb going after the knee in a logical move. That's broken up and hit the test of strength, with Riho being bridged down and staying up as Deeb lands on her. A shoulder puts Riho down but she's back up with a cartwheel into a crossbody for two. Riho's 619 is blocked and a catapult sends her throat first into the bottom rope. We take a break and come back with Riho fighting out of a crossarm choke and snapping off a dragon suplex.

Riho goes up but gets caught coming off the top, allowing Deeb to snap off a dragon screw legwhip out of the corner. A swinging neckbreaker gets two on Riho but she knocks Deeb into the ropes for the 619. Riho's top rope double stomp to the back gets two but Deeb is right back with a Stretch Muffler. That's reversed into a rollup for two, followed by a northern lights suplex for two more. The top rope double stomp gets another near fall and they go to a pinfall reversal sequence with Riho rolling her up for the pin at 14:46.

**Rating:** B. Well you knew Riho wasn't losing in her first match back. I'm still worried that AEW is going to have her run through everyone again because they see quite a bit in her, though this was quite the match with both of them looking good. I'm not sure why AEW needs two Women's Champions

floating around but this was a heck of a match and Deeb continues to look awesome in almost everything she does.

We look at Jade Cargill and Shaquille O'Neal training for their mixed tag by playing basketball.

### Luther vs. Orange Cassidy

Serpentico and Chuck Taylor are at ringside and get in a fight at the bell. Luther hits a pump kick to knock Cassidy to the apron, where Cassidy powerbombs him to the floor. Back in and Chuck Awful Waffles Serpentico (you knew JR is all over that one), leaving Cassidy to hit the Orange Punch for the pin at 1:53.

We recap Team Tazz putting Darby Allin in a body bag and dragging him around the parking lot in a car last week.

Here's Team Tazz to call out Sting and he's right there for them. They don't like the bat so Sting throws it away, meaning the beatdown is on. Brian Cage powerbombs the heck out of him. I cringe every time Sting does something physical these days so hopefully it doesn't happen too often.

Eddie Kingston wants to get rid of Rey Fenix, but he needs to get rid of Jon Moxley. Pills, drinking and women haven't done it, so it has to be beating Moxley once and for all, old friend.

JR sends us to a segment from earlier today with "the WWE Champion Kenny Omega." Kenny, with Don Callis, was at a school earlier today and read the Young Bucks book to a bunch of kids. Kid after looking at the book cover: "Are they in love?" Kenny: "Uh, well they're brothers so they love each other very much." Kenny reads a passage about how he boosted business in the Tokyo Dome and they have to leave. They're rather pleased with the publicity this will get but a kid wants them to stay. Callis says they can't, but they can play with Michael Nakazawa (thankfully in regular clothes). The kids beat

Nakazawa up.

### Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks vs. Santana and Ortiz

Santana and Ortiz (with most of the Inner Circle) are challenging and Santana armdrags Nick down to start. Matt comes in and hammers away in the corner, only to get caught in a double team backbreaker. MJF comes up on the apron to go after Matt but the referee catches him and ejects the entire team.

We take a break and come back with Matt hitting a top rope twisting Stunner on Santana. An Iconoclasm into a sitout powerbomb gets two but Ortiz is back with a super Falcon Arrow for the same on Matt. Ortiz gets Nick in a Koji Clutch but Matt makes the save with a top rope elbow. The Bucks send Ortiz outside and the Doomsday Device gets two on Santana.

The buckle bomb into an enziguri sets up the double superkick for two with Ortiz having to make another save. Santana ducks the BTE Trigger though and rolls Ortiz over for a double Stunner on Matt. The Street Sweeper gets two on Nick with Matt having to make a last second save. Santana powerbombs Matt over the barricade into the crowd but Nick grabs a small package for the pin to retain at 13:07.

**Rating:** B. Another rather good match here, though I didn't quite get into the near falls as the Bucks had only taken one finisher so they weren't about to get pinned yet. I'm still trying to get my head around the fact that Santana and Ortiz had never gotten a title shot before, but they did their thing rather well here. Good match, especially for a TV match with rather little build.

Post match the Inner Circle comes back in for the beatdown as Don Callis, Kenny Omega and the Good Brothers watch backstage. Brandon Cutler comes in for the failed save, leaving Jericho and MJF to put their holds on the Bucks for the taps. The Brothers make the very slow motion saves. The Bucks' parents are in the crowd and the dad shoves Jericho.

Cody and Brandi Rhodes reveal the gender of their baby. It's a girl. Dang I was hoping for a toaster.

### FTR vs. Matt Sydal/Mike Sydal

Cody is on commentary and announces a ladder match for the #1 contendership to the TNT Title. As we see Dory Funk Jr. in the crowd, Mike gets knocked into the corner to start but Matt comes in for some rapid fire shots. Cash takes Mike's head off for two though and we take a break.

Back with Matt fighting back, only to have a tornado DDT countered into a powerbomb. A dragon suplex gets two on Matt with Mike having to make a save. Matt cleans house, including the top rope Meteora. Mike tries to come in off the top with....something but he slips a bit (must be a family thing) and crashes onto Dax for two. FTR has had it with these guys and it's the Big Rig for the pin on Mike at 8:56.

**Rating;** C-. I couldn't get into this one as it was more like Matt trying to fight FTR on his own with Mike just kind of being there. FTR beating these guys up was a fine way to go, but the Sydals just aren't all that interesting. I did get a bit of a chuckle out of Mike slipping up as well, though it was nowhere near as bad as Matt's debut.

Post match FTR goes for the doctor's medical bag so they can cut off Mike's hair. The lights go out and we see a shot of Luchasaurus' mask. They come back up and it's Jurassic Express (with Luchasaurus....well apparently he just got a new mask) to clean house.

Here's what's coming next week, in two weeks, and at Revolution.

Jon Moxley keeps hearing about Eddie Kingston's problems. After everything they have put each other through, Moxley is the only person who still cares about him. Moxley has a lot of things to look forward to, including February 26 when he tries



to break Kenta's neck. Then it's time for Revolution when he takes the AEW World Title back from Kenny Omega. Kenny can't run and the time is just about here, because it's time to pull the trigger.

### Jon Moxley/Fenix/Lance Archer vs. Eddie Kingston/Butcher and the Blade

Jake Roberts and the Bunny are here too. It's a brawl to start with everyone fighting on the floor. Moxley gets caught in the corner for some running splashes but a neckbreaker gets him out of trouble. Archer comes in for some suplexes to Blade but Butcher tries to break up the rope walk. Fenix makes a save of his own and Archer takes Blade down anyway so we can take a break.

Back with Butcher chopping Archer in the corner and Blade bites him in the forehead for a bonus. Moxley gets tired of waiting on the apron and clotheslines Blade out to the floor. Archer crossbodies Butcher and Eddie at the same time and brings Fenix in to pick the pace way up. One heck of a running dive takes out Blade the and the rolling cutter hits Butcher. The Eddie Guerrero dance sets up a frog splash for two but Kingston cuts Fenix off with an exploder suplex.

Everything breaks down and we get the parade of knockdowns until Moxley and Kingston start the slugout. Fenix kicks Kingston in the back of the head and Moxley slaps on the bulldog choke until Blade makes the save. Archer hits a running flip dive to the floor to take out Butcher and Blade, leaving Moxley and Kingston to slug it out again. Kingston hits a spinning backfist but Moxley hits a hard clothesline. The Paradigm Shift finishes Kingston at 11:58.

**Rating:** B. It's another good and wild match but they're starting to wear a bit thin with this style. I know that's what they do and such, but it would be nice to see them mix it up a bit instead of one wild match after another. That being

said, the Moxley vs. Kingston stuff continues to be great because they make you believe everything they're saying. That's more than enough to make up for anything else in this match and it's not like it was bad in the first place.

Post match the Good Brothers come in for the beatdown on Moxley and here are Omega and Moxley. Omega has a contract that gives Moxley a rematch for the title. The rematch is on at Revolution but Omega names the stipulation: an EXPLODING BARBED WIRE DEATHMATCH. Well ok then. Moxley headbutts Omega but gets V Triggered to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** A-. That ending announcement is going to get a lot of differing opinions (as it should, mainly because it's pretty ridiculous and took away almost every bit of the interest I had in seeing the match) but this was a heck of a show with three pretty awesome matches out of six in total. They also did the rapid fire build to the pay per view, which can work out just fine. I had a pretty awesome time with this show and it did what it needed to do while offering some awesome in-ring work. In other words, it's AEW.

### Results

Hangman Page/Matt Hardy b. Hybrid 2 – Twist of Fate to Angelico

Riho b. Serena Deeb – Rollup

Orange Cassidy b. Luther – Orange Punch

Young Bucks b. Santana and Ortiz – Small package to Santana

FTR b. Mike Sydal/Matt Sydal – Big Rig to Mike

Jon Moxley/Fenix/Lance Archer b. Butcher and the Blade/Eddie Kingston – Paradigm Shift to Kingston

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