

Smackdown – May 4, 2007: It's Not Quite Star Wars

Smackdown

Date: May 4, 2007

Location: BJCC, Birmingham, Alabama

Attendance: 5,000

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're done with Backlash but it does not seem like we are done with Batista vs. Undertaker. The two of them went to a draw in a Last Man Standing match at the pay per view and that probably means we get another match between the two of them, which is not a bad thing. I'm not sure what that is going to mean, but hopefully WWE can keep up their roll. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

William Regal vs. Boogeyman

This isn't quite the normal start, but Little Boogeyman is back. Dave Taylor is here too but he doesn't have quite the merchandising potential. Grappling doesn't quite work for Regal so Boogeyman gyrates a bit. Regal gets a bit more violent by sending him shoulder first into the post and kicking the arm. Some forearms have Boogeyman in trouble as Cole calls him a "must see character". The chinlock doesn't last long as the fans bring Boogeyman back to life. The chokebomb connects but Taylor comes in for the DQ.

Rating: C-. This was short and to the point, likely for the sake of setting up another match of some kind. They went a bit more technical than I was expecting here but Regal got better once he turned into the brawler. Keeping this short was

probably better for Boogeyman, as he isn't exactly the best thing to see in the ring most of the time.

Post match the beatdown is on, with Little Boogeyman taking a beating of his own. Kane runs in for the save, chasing the Brits into the crowd.

We look at Vince McMahon becoming ECW World Champion.

Dusty Rhodes is in Teddy Long's office but Teddy doesn't think he would be a good choice for an assistant's role. Rhodes thought it was for the GM's job and leaves (Dusty: "See ya playa!"). MVP comes in (MVP: "Was that the American Dream?") and isn't happy with what happened to him at Backlash. If he doesn't get another US Title shot, he's sitting out the rest of his contract. Long says he can have the title shot if he wins tonight...against Kane. Yelling ensues so MVP leaves, running into Sgt. Slaughter, the Brooklyn Brawler and the Miz, all of whom want to be Long's assistant. Miz even throws in a HOO RAH.

Brian Kendrick vs. Domino

It really would be nice to think that WWE knows another way to present a tag team feud but that seems to be false hope. Deuce, Cherry and the injured Paul London are here too as Domino grabs an early headlock. Kendrick sends him outside and hits a heck of a suicide dive, only to have Domino come back with a knee to the face.

Back in and another knee, this time in the form of a drop, gives Domino two and we hit the chinlock. Kendrick raises a boot to cut off a middle rope unidentified flying...thing and hits a running forearm in the corner. Deuce takes out London but Kendrick kicks Deuce off the apron as he hits Sliced Bread for the pin.

Rating: C. Kendrick was flying all over the place here and it made for a good enough match, even if this feud has gone so

far beyond stale that it's barely worth caring about. The tag division really is that weak at the moment, or at least the face side of it is, because there has been nothing suggesting even one other team coming after the titles.

Here is Mr. Kennedy, complete with a graphic counting down to his Wrestlemania XXIV countdown. It's 331 days until there is a new champion and his name is....a catchphrase.

Mr. Kennedy vs. Matt Hardy

JBL thinks that Hardy could be in the main event of Wrestlemania as well, because JBL isn't a great analyst. Hardy headlocks Kennedy down to start as JBL thinks next year's Wrestlemania is in Tampa. Back up and Kennedy works on a headlock of his own to little avail. Cole uses this opportunity to hype up an upcoming clip of the end of Batista and Undertaker for approximately the 193rd time tonight.

Kennedy starts working on the arm before elbowing Hardy in the face. A backdrop sends Kennedy over the top though and we take a break, with Kennedy possibly having a busted nose. Back with Hardy hitting a middle rope elbow to the back of the head, only to have Kennedy take him down by the arm. The chinlock goes on again, meaning Cole can get in his 194th reference to the Batista/Undertaker clip.

Back up and they collide coming out of the corner until Kennedy is sent outside. He comes up favoring his shoulder but is still fine enough to kick Hardy hard into the steps. They head back inside with Kennedy grabbing a cravate to keep Hardy down. A clothesline gives Kennedy two and let's hit that chinlock again. That's broken up but Hardy's bulldog out of the corner is broken up.

The second attempt connects to give Hardy two but Kennedy pulls him throat first across the top. The Side Effect drops Kennedy for two more and a double clothesline gives them two each. Kennedy counters the Twist of Fate into a Regal Roll for

two but the Kenton Bomb only hits raised knees. Hardy's middle rope legdrop gets yet another near fall so Kennedy shoves him at the referee. That doesn't seem to bother Hardy, who comes back with the Twist of Fate for the pin.

Rating: B. This got some time and really picked up the pace in the last few minutes as they were trading a lot of near falls. That is not something you get to see very often in a free TV match and they made it work for the better part of twenty minutes. Nice stuff here, though Mr. Money in the Bank losing again holds it back a bit.

Video on Batista and Undertaker in the Last Man Standing match at Backlash. It was rather good, but not quite the epic showdown Cole made it out to be.

Teddy Long announces that next week, it's Batista vs. Undertaker in a cage match to finish everything once and for all.

Maryse welcomes us back to the show.

Jimmy Wang Yang vs. Gregory Helms

Yang shoulders him down for a headlock to start, setting up an armdrag into an armbar. Back up and Helms blocks another armdrag and sends him outside. Helms tosses Yang back inside and grabs most of a half crab (minus stepping over), followed by a waistlock. Yang fights up again and hits a dropkick into a hurricanrana for a breather. Helms slams him out of the corner for two but a superplex is broken up. The top rope moonsault press finishes for Yang.

Rating: C. This was two people having a match for a few minutes with some nice moves thrown in. It had nothing as far as interest goes, as it's not like the Cruiserweight Title means much of anything at the moment. The fact that it took me a little while to remember who the champion was should tell you all you need to know about the division right now, and

that isn't likely to get any better anytime soon.

Here is a serious Batista for a chat. He talks about what he and Undertaker put each other through at Backlash before going over the limit. After they crashed through everything, Batista was laying there asking himself if this was all worth it. Of course it was and he wanted to step out of his body and slap himself for asking such a stupid question. He's ready to do it all over again because he has promised himself to win the title back, even if it means getting inside a cage next week.

Mark Henry is still coming back.

Finlay vs. Miz

Feeling out process to start until Miz actually manages to knock him outside. Even JBL is impressed, though Finlay nailing Miz in the head cuts that off in a hurry. Hornswoggle pops out for a cheap shot, sending JBL into a rant about how we have Little Boogeyman, Hornswoggle and Tazz around here. They head back in and Finlay takes off the turnbuckle pad, allowing him to throw Hornswoggle at Miz behind the referee's back. Miz sends him shoulder first into the post for two though and the running corner clothesline hits Finlay again.

Cue Hornswoggle again (three times in a four minute match is a bit much), this time with a Shillelagh shot to Miz. The distraction lets Finlay run Miz over but Miz sends him into the apron. Hornswoggle pulls Miz underneath the ring this time but he's right back out...wearing Hornswoggle's hat. That's too much for Miz, who takes the countout.

Rating: D+. This was basically Miz vs. Hornswoggle and that got a little tiring in a hurry. That being said, Miz is also starting to get a lot more comfortable in the ring and you can see a star starting to emerge. He has always been able to talk but if he can survive in the ring, he becomes even more valuable. Now someone get me Hornswoggle's hat.

Undertaker promises to make Batista rest in peace next week. Short and to the point here.

We look at Vince McMahon winning the ECW World Title (they're REALLY high on this story, as they should be).

Kane vs. MVP

The winner challenges Chris Benoit for the US Title at Judgment Day. Kane powers him into the corner to start and then throws him back out, setting up an early bearhug. A powerslam out of the corner gives Kane two and it's off to a chinlock with a knee in MVP's back. Kane knocks him down again and we take a break. Back with MVP sending him shoulder first into the post and hammering away to get a breather. The armbars makes it worse for Kane and a forearm to the shoulder gets two.

The referee breaks up something in the ropes so Kane is back with a clothesline. MVP is sent into the corner for the running clothesline but another shot to the arm gets him out of trouble. Kane uses the good arm to hit a side slam for two but MVP's swinging neckbreaker is good for the same. A slam puts MVP down though and Kane hits the top rope clothesline. Cue William Regal and Dave Taylor though, with the latter distracting the referee so Regal can get in a brass knuckles shot. The Playmaker gives MVP the pin and the title shot.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure how much drama there was to this but it was nice to see things tied back into the opening segment to wrap this up. MVP continues to look like he could be a big deal on the show, but egads he has to win that title at the pay per view. It was a pretty nice match though, and Regal's knuckles shot looked painful to make it better.

Overall Rating: C+. Overall, this was a solid enough week with Hardy vs. Kennedy being the highlight, but I think you can tell that something is a little off. Undertaker appearing in a pre-tape and a sudden World Title match being booked for TV

isn't the most encouraging sign, as it would suggest that something was wrong (which it turns out there was). Still though, good show, despite what felt like some stuff being thrown together at the last minute.

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ECW On Sci Fi – May 1, 2007: The Gardener's Favorite Show

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: May 1, 2007

Location: BJCC, Birmingham, Alabama

Attendance: 5,000

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

Things changed again last week as CM Punk turned on the New Breed almost immediately after joining them. That certainly makes things more interesting, but it also makes Punk that much bigger of a star. If he isn't a bigger deal than Rob Van Dam just yet, it isn't going to be long. Oh and in a minor

note: Vince McMahon is the new ECW World Champion. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Vince McMahon winning the ECW World Title at Backlash, with some help from Shane McMahon and Umaga.

Opening sequence.

Here is a ticked off Bobby Lashley to get things going. Vince McMahon may be the new ECW World Champion but no one outside of the McMahon family is happy about it. Lashley doesn't care if his shoulder is banged up because he wants his rematch RIGHT NOW. Cue Armando Alejandro Estrada in a wheelchair and neck brace, saying Lashley isn't going to ruin a special night.

Lashley is the reason Vince is bald and that Estrada is in the wheelchair (good for a sly smile), plus why he can't manage Umaga right now. Vince has a message for Lashley though: he'll get a rematch, but it won't be tonight. Also, unless physically provoked, Lashley can't touch either McMahon or Umaga. Lashley realizes that a certain name isn't on that list and Estrada realizes the same. The wheelchair crashes shortly thereafter.

Elijah Burke gives the New Breed a pep talk, explaining how much CM Punk turned on all of them last week. From now on, follow his lead.

CM Punk comes out for a match so here is the New Breed, with Burke picking his opponent.

Kevin Thorn vs. CM Punk

Riveting choice. Thorn drives him into the corner and kicks away to start before pulling him throat first into the rope. The chinlock goes on as I can't help but think there is

something weird about a vampire/vampire enthusiast wearing a Nike elbow pad. Punk fights up and Thorn charges into some boots in the corner. The GTS finishes Thorn in a hurry.

The ECW Originals are annoyed at Vince McMahon for winning the ECW World Title. This aired on Raw.

Extreme Expose.

Kevin Thorn wants to know where the New Breed was. Elijah Burke doesn't want to hear it and says any of the team could have beaten CM Punk. Thorn doesn't want to hear it and quits the team.

More of the ECW Originals complaining about Vince McMahon winning the title. This also aired on Raw.

Snitsky video.

Marcus Cor Von/Matt Striker vs. Major Brothers

That would be Brett/Brian Major, better known as Zack Ryder/Curt Hawkins. Brian works on Striker's wrist to start but gets pulled down by the hair for his efforts. The second attempt at arm cranking goes a bit better and it's Brett coming in with a middle rope ax handle. Cor Von comes in and sends Brett outside so the beating can begin.

A gorilla press dropped back into a fall away slam gets two, with Brian having to make a save. The chinlock goes on to keep Brett in trouble but Cor Von misses a charge in the corner. The hot tag brings in Brian for two off a powerslam to Striker. Cor Von pulls Brett to the floor, leaving Striker to clothesline Brian. Back up and Brian hits a middle rope spinning crossbody for the completely clean pin on Striker.

Rating: C-. Not much of a match but dang that is a heck of an upset as the New Breed continues to fall apart. At some point you have to just give someone a win and that's what they did here with the Major Brothers. The team was certainly more

polished than your usual team from the corner to my left and it was a very nice surprise, especially with no interference.

Post match Striker claims a fast count but Elijah Burke doesn't want to hear it. Striker walks away.

We look back at Umaga beating Rob Van Dam in a good match on Raw.

Here is Vince McMahon, and yes he does the open the jacket to reveal the belt thing (which he refers to as "exposing himself". Vince is willing to defend the title against Lashley but Vince is going to decide on the details. We'll get to that later though, because first up we have the ECW Originals. They aren't happy with him as champion, but they should come say that to his face. The fans think someone sucks but Vince thinks they're talking about the ECW Originals.

Vince invites the team out here and then gets in Van Dam's face, with Van Dam saying Vince killed ECW. The title on Vince's shoulder is a disgrace and it makes Van Dam sick. Vince moves on to Sabu...who we'll talk to later as Sabu doesn't talk. Sandman smells bad but he holds up three fingers and tells Vince to read between the lines.

Finally, Vince asks why Tommy Dreamer is wearing gold shoes and then asks what he thinks. Dreamer talks about the fans demanding the return of ECW and says the people at home pay his salary. They know about the spirit of ECW and that's what matters. Vince asks which of them is ready to challenge him and all four are ready, but let's have a four way #1 contenders dance instead. And let's make it Extreme Rules! This idea makes sense on paper and it's glorious to see Vince trolling ECW like this, but it's a little hard to believe that Sandman or Sabu is going to work with Vince in any serious way.

Rob Van Dam vs. Sabu vs. Tommy Dreamer vs. Sandman

One fall to a finish and Extreme Rules and Vince provides all kinds of weapons. We get some rollups to start until they pair off, with Van Dam being kicked out to the floor. The weapons are brought in and Sandman clotheslines Sabu down for two. They start heading outside, with Sabu hitting a dive to take Van Dam off the apron for a nasty crash. Back in and Sandman bulldogs Dreamer onto a trashcan for two.

Vince is rather pleased that Dreamer is outside getting a chair to put Sandman in the Tree of Woe for the dropkick. Van Dam is back in to clean house with the chair but Dreamer hits him with a piledriver (giving us Van Dam's bouncing sell). Sabu takes Sandman down and gets two off the triple jump moonsault. It's time for the required table (Vince applauds), with Dreamer superplexing Sabu through Sandman through said table. Van Dam adds the Five Star to pin Sandman for the title shot.

Rating: C. This was about what you would expect from these four in this kind of a match, including a pretty obvious winner. Again, who else was going to be any kind of a realistic opponent for McMahon? Even in a one off match, it's not like there is a ton of star power around here. This Vince vs. ECW deal sounds good on paper, but it kind of falls apart once you look at the ECW roster.

Overall Rating: C. They were focusing on setting things up for later here and you have to do that every now and then. I don't know how much doubt is there for what is coming from these stories, but we got some nice steps on the way there. The show itself wasn't bad, but this was about the future rather than the present, which worked out about as well as could be expected.

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Rampage – October 1, 2021: CM Punk Sounds Hungry

Rampage

Date: October 1, 2021

Location: Blue Cross Arena, Rochester, New York

Commentators: Taz, Ricky Starks, Excalibur

It's time for a special night as we have two big matches on the same show. First of all, we'll be seeing Bryan Danielson facing Nick Jackson in a match that could be rather interesting. Other than that, Jack Evans is putting his hair on the line against Orange Cassidy, as per Matt Hardy's orders. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Bryan Danielson vs. Nick Jackson

They start slowly until the threat of some strikes send Danielson outside. Nick spends too much time getting some cold spray that Danielson is right there with the suicide dive.

Back in and Danielson takes him down into the surfboard/Dragon Sleeper. Not that it matters as Danielson is right back up with a flip into a rebound clothesline to take over.

A cross armbreaker sends Nick over to the ropes but Danielson is right back on the arm. Danielson suplexes him down to set up a hammerlock, complete with knees to make the arm worse. Back up and Danielson misses the running dropkick in the corner to put him on the floor. Matt Jackson gets in some cheap shots of his own and we take a break. Back with Danielson not being phased by the YES Kicks before firing off his own in the corner.

The moonsault into the running clothesline sets up the big kick to the head for two on Nick. The LeBell Lock is broken up in a hurry so they head to the apron, with Danielson kicking the post by mistake and getting suplexed hard. Nick hits a big flip dive and it's a Scorpion Deathlock to put Danielson in trouble back inside. With that broken up, Nick hits a superkick but Danielson is back with a tiger suplex. The hard elbows to the face rock Nick again and Cattle Mutilation gives Danielson the win at 15:32.

Rating: B. This worked much better than I would have expected, as Danielson pulled Jackson in and eventually caught him in a hold. You can see a good difference between the two, as Nick is all about hitting whatever he can while Danielson feels more controlled and going with what he's looking for each time. It made for a good match though and that is one of the reasons you have Danielson on the show.

Post match the Elite comes in for the beatdown but Jurassic Express and Christian Cage come in for the save. Danielson and Jungle Boy make Kenny Omega and Adam Cole tap.

We get a video from Ricky Starks, who is absolute in the fact that he is not scared of Brian Cage. This is reaching Blood Runs Cold levels of GET ON WITH IT ALREADY!

CM Punk talks about how the only reason he beat Will Hobbs is experience. People are starting to get that he is back and people are going to be gunning for him. That's what he wants, because he would rather choke on greatness than starve on mediocrity. Going to sleep is always on the menu.

Jade Cargill vs. Nyla Rose vs. Thunder Rosa

Rosa kicks Cargill down to start but gets planted by Rose. Cargill makes the save and we get the big power showdown with Rosa being knocked outside. That leaves Rosa to hit a missile dropkick and we take a break. Back with Rosa hitting a running dropkick to Cargill against the ropes, followed by another involving a trashcan. Rose sends Rosa outside and grabs a half crab on Cargill, with Rosa making the save this time. Rosa has to win a fight on the apron and powerbombs Rose off the apron through a table at ringside. Back in and Cargill unloads on Rosa with a chair for the pin at 9:06.

Rating: C. Just a match here and I'm not sure how much it really accomplished. Cargill was able to win a match that went a little longer than usual, but seeing Rosa lose, especially when Rose is right there, isn't the easiest thing to see. Rosa has been waiting to break through for a long time now and it seems we'll be waiting even longer. It's hardly some death sentence, but it's a bit frustrating.

Malakai Black says the black mist to Cody Rhodes came from the heart. There is more destruction coming for the Nightmare Family.

Here's what's coming next week.

We get the face to face interview between Jack Evans/Matt Hardy and Orange Cassidy. Evans is ready to win but Cassidy doesn't know what a hair vs. hair match is. Once he figures it out, he decides he won't lose.

Jack Evans vs. Orange Cassidy

Matt Hardy is here with Evans and his distraction lets Evans get in a rollup for two. Cassidy is back with the lazy kicks before spinning Evans around by the hair. Hardy gets in a cheap shot though and Evans adds a spinning kick from the apron. A 450 from the apron crushes Cassidy and we take a break.

Back with Evans countering the tornado DDT into a northern lights suplex. A Michinoku Driver gets two and a standing sky twister press hits Cassidy for the same. Cassidy is right back with the tornado DDT and the top rope DDT gets two more. Cue the Hardy Family Office to even things up but the Dark Order, Chuck Taylor and Wheeler Yuta to cut them off (because Cassidy vs. Evans needed the extras). The Orange Punch finishes Evans at 9:04.

Rating: C. The wrestling wasn't the point here, but that has never stopped AEW from having WAY too many people come out during a match. Cassidy winning was never in question here and that's fine, as it is nice to see him in this lower level feud instead of up near the top of the card. This is where he thrives and feels more like a star, so nice job of figuring that out.

Post match Hardy and company leave, so Evans can get his hair cut. Cassidy even sweeps up the hair, which is turned into a mustache for Negative One. The big hug ends the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This is what I wanted from Rampage: supplementing matches stories that get their main focus on Dynamite and giving other stories more attention than they are going to get on the main show. It made for a very easy to watch hour and that's how this show should go. Nicely done, and they seem to be figuring out the Rampage formula.

Results

Bryan Danielson b. Nick Jackson – Cattle Mutilation

Jade Cargill b. Thunder Rosa and Nyla Rose – Chair shot

Orange Cassidy b. Jack Evans – Orange Punch

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Smackdown – October 1, 2021 (2021 Draft Night One): Moving On Up/Down

Smackdown

Date: October 1, 2021

Location: Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Pat McAfee, Michael Cole

It's a big night as we are starting this year's Draft. That means we are going to be seeing a bunch of names moved from show to show, though it is not clear if NXT will be included as well. That could make for some interesting changes, but they might not all be for the best. Let's get to it.

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

Commentary welcomes us to the show and sets up a few rules: half of the roster will be eligible for drafting tonight and half on Raw, but the rosters will not officially change until October 22, the night after Crown Jewel.

We waste no time as Sonya Deville and Adam Pearce are here to announce the first round picks:

Round 1

Smackdown: Roman Reigns

Raw: Big E.

Smackdown: Charlotte

Raw: Bianca Belair

Here are Roman Reigns and Paul Heyman for a chat, but first we look at a package on Reigns vs. Finn Balor from Extreme Rules. Reigns' shirt now says We The Ones and he demands to be acknowledged, which the fans are VERY interested in doing. Heyman says that's not good enough and talks about how the Demon is no longer undefeated.

Reigns performed an exorcism, and now he is moving on to Crown Jewel, which will not be taking place in Suplex City. That's because Brock Lesnar will be running into the Suplexorcist and be smashed...but here is Lesnar in person. We get a long staredown and then the brawl is on, with Lesnar clearing Reigns out. The Usos come in and get dropped with F5's, sending Reigns and Heyman away.

Charlotte isn't surprised that she was brought over to Smackdown because Fox knows star power when she sees it.

Happy Corbin vs. Kevin Owens

Earlier today, Corbin introduces his new happy friend, Madcap Moss (that's not bad). Owens clotheslines him to the floor to start but it's too early for a dive. Moss trips Owens up though and it's a lot of laughter to send us to a break. Back with Owens making the comeback but the Stunner is countered

into a rollup for two. Corbin plants Owens with Deep Six for two but Owens knocks him into the corner for the Cannonball. They head outside where Corbin hits End of Days (Cole: "Or should we call it Happy Days?") and another version connects inside for the pin at 7:28.

Rating: C. It was a good enough power brawl but the rise of Happy Corbin continues to be one of the more entertaining things in all of WWE. No it might not be great or brilliant, but dang I'm having a good time with the thing. Throw in Moss getting something to do again and it's another bonus.

We look back at Sasha Banks returning at Extreme Rules and costing Bianca Belair a shot at the Smackdown Women's Title.

It's time for round 2:

Round 2

Smackdown – Drew McIntyre

Raw – RKBro

Smackdown – Kofi Kingston/Xavier Woods

Raw – Edge

So basically, Edge was traded for New Day and Drew McIntyre. I've heard worse deals....I think.

Here is Drew McIntyre to say that he had a great time on Raw but he has some unfinished business. There is a cloud hanging over Smackdown and it is time for McIntyre to break it up. With a point of Angela, McIntyre says he wants the Universal Title.

Here is Edge for a chat. After soaking in some loud cheers, Edge talks about how he is the only person here who was on the first Smackdown. Now though, he has been sent to Raw, which he sees as a challenge. Speaking of a challenge, we have Seth Rollins, who attacked him in Madison Square Garden three weeks ago and took him out again. Edge is on his way to 100%, and wants Rollins to come out here and make him saw Rollins is

better.

Cue a laughing Rollins on the Titantron. Rollins is rather happy to be here...because he's at Edge's house. Edge storms to the back as Rollins lets himself inside and asks for Beth (Phoenix, Edge's wife). Rollins helps himself to an apple and orange juice, while admiring Edge's kids' backpacks. As Rollins has a seat in the library, we cut to Edge frantically calling Beth and telling her to go to her brother's (and ignore the groceries).

Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

Extreme Rules Kickoff Show rematch. Liv knocks her to the floor before the bell but Carmella says hang on a second. She has a team of people put a mask on her, then goes back inside to beat Morgan up, including an X Factor. No match, as I try to figure out what the point of that was.

Time for Round 3:

Round 3

Smackdown: Happy Corbin/Madcap Moss

Raw: Rhea Ripley/Nikki Ash

Smackdown: Hit Row

Raw: Keith "Bearcat" Lee

Hit Row is awesome in NXT. It's going to be sad to see their immediate demise on Fridays.

New Day/Street Profits vs. Alpha Academy/Dolph Ziggler/Bobby Roode

Ziggler and Kingston start things off (as their VERY longstanding rivalry continues) with Kofi hitting a jumping back elbow for an early two. It's Ziggler being taken into the corner for the ax handle from Ford (still with the taped ribs). Gable comes in for an armdrag and sunset flip to Ford, setting up the ankle lock. That's broken up in a hurry and

Ford knocks all of the villains off the apron. Ford's dive off the apron is cut off by Otis, who sends him hard into the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Gable countering Ford's sunset flip into a northern lights suplex for two (that was sweet). Ford manages to get in a shot to Gable though and the hot tag brings in Dawkins to clean house. Everything breaks down, with Dawkins hitting his double underhook neckbreaker for two. Otis runs everyone over but gets sent outside, leaving Roode to hit a spinebuster for two on Dawkins. New Day is right back in though and Daybreak finishes Roode at 10:09.

Rating: C+. It was an energetic match and that's about all you can ask for from something like this. Eight wrestlers with ten minutes between them and a commercial thrown in is not going to be enough to let everyone get some time and that was the case here. What we saw was fun and Ford got A LOT of the focus, but we didn't get to see very much.

Xavier Woods did some stuff with the Boys and Girls Club. Jenga was involved.

And now the final round:

Round 4

Smackdown – Naomi

Raw – Rey Mysterio/Dominik

Smackdown – Jeff Hardy

Raw – Austin Theory

Theory is interesting. Dominik isn't.

Here are the final picks:

To Smackdown:

Round 1 – Roman Reigns

Round 1 – Charlotte

Round 2 – Drew McIntyre

Round 2 – Kofi Kingston/Xavier Woods
Round 3 – Happy Corbin/Madcap Moss
Round 3 – Hit Row
Round 4 – Naomi
Round 4 – Jeff Hardy

To Raw:

Round 1 – Big E.
Round 1 – Bianca Belair
Round 2 – RKBro
Round 2 – Edge
Round 3 – Rhea Ripley/Nikki Ash
Round 3 – Keith “Bearcat” Lee
Round 4 – Rey Mysterio/Dominik
Round 4 – Austin Theory

Jeff Hardy is in the back for an interview, but Brock Lesnar interrupts. He dismisses Hardy and Kayla Braxton to announce that he is officially a free agent because of Paul Heyman. Therefore, he can do whatever he wants to do. Mic drop.

We go to the Bloodline’s dressing room, where Paul Heyman is rather nervous. Roman Reigns asks if he and Heyman are good friends, with Heyman saying of course they are. Reigns says if they are friends, he needs to make sure that the Usos are drafted to Smackdown. Heyman says he’s the wise man but Reigns seems to laugh it off. Reigns: “YOU’RE ONLY THE WISE MAN WHEN I SAY YOU’RE THE WISE MAN!”

Reigns mocks the idea of sticking to the plan, and orders Heyman to go to Raw and make sure the Usos stay on Smackdown. Heyman thanks Reigns and leaves in a hurry. Reigns sends the Usos to Raw to make sure this gets done. If Heyman fails, leave him for dead. Reigns turning into a near Mafia boss is great stuff.

Bianca Belair vs. Sasha Banks

Becky Lynch comes out for commentary as Banks grinds away on a

headlock to start. A running hurricanrana drops Belair again as Becky talks about how unfair the Crown Jewel triple threat will be. Belair sticks the landing on a monkey flip and sends Banks into the corner as Becky rants about Banks interfering on Sunday. Banks' crossbody is countered into a gorilla press drop (Becky: "I do CrossFit too!") but Banks escapes the KOD. A HARD running forearm sends Banks outside and we take a break.

Back with Banks hitting a top rope Meteora for two. Belair isn't having that and hits a double chickenwing slam, followed by a delayed vertical suplex for two of her own. Banks catches her on top and a tornado DDT drops Belair for another near fall. The frog splash gets two more but Belair fights up. That's enough for Becky to trip her up though and Banks grabs a rollup for the pin at 13:45.

Rating: B-. These two still have great chemistry together and that is likely always going to be the case. The Becky interference was fine and it's not like Belair lost clean. There is a very real chance that Belair leaves Crown Jewel with the title anyway so everything until then is just kind of filling in time.

Post match, here is Charlotte to take out Banks and Belair, setting up the dueling title pose with Becky to end the show (and setting up Survivor Series). I'm fully convinced they're just trolling with Charlotte these days and that makes things a lot easier to take.

Overall Rating: C+. These shows are always weird to grade. They aren't about wrestling whatsoever (as they shouldn't be) but you also can't really know what things are going to look like until we get done with Raw (and apparently Crown Jewel). There were enough moves that made me interested to make it work though so I'll take what I can get. Add in Reigns seemingly at the brink with Heyman and it was an enjoyable enough show, with some pretty important moves thrown in.

Results

Happy Corbin b. Kevin Owens – End of Days

New Day/Street Profits b. Bobby Roode/Dolph Ziggler/Alpha Academy – Daybreak to Roode

Sasha Banks b. Bianca Belair – Rollup

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Daily News Update – October 1, 2021

Update On WWE Summerslam 2022 Taking Place In The United Kingdom.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/update-wwe-summerslam-2022-taking-place-united-kingdom/>

More Details On New Upcoming WWE Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/details-new-upcoming-wwe-series/>

Nikki Bella Reveals Sad News About Her Wrestling Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-legend-reveals-can-ever-wrestle/>

Released WWE Star Signed New Deal Months Before Being Let Go.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/released-wwe-star-signed-new-deal-months-let-go/>

RUMOR: Another Surprising Move You Could See In The WWE Draft.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-another-surprising-move-see-wwe-draft/>

Innovative New Championship Officially Introduced.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/innovative-new-championship-officially-introduced/>

WWE Hall Of Famer Turned Down Vince McMahon's Offer Of A Producer Job.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-hall-famer-turned-producer-job/>

Mick Foley Could Return To The Ring (In A Special Way).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/mick-foley-return-ring-special-way/>

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NXT UK – September 30, 2021: They Need Some More Things

NXT UK

Date: September 30, 2021

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

We're back to the show that just kind of exists but still does enough good things to be one of the best wrestling shows going. This time around we get a visit from one of the best tag teams the show has ever seen as Moustache Mountain is getting back together. Other than that, the road to the Heritage Cup #1 Contenders tournament continues, because it can never end. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Oliver Carter/Ashton Smith vs. Moustache Mountain

Tyler Bate slams Carter down to start and Trent Seven comes in for a spinning slam. Carter takes him down by the arm though and it's off to Smith to work on the arm. Seven gets slammed down onto some raised boots and we hit the quickly broken chinlock. Back up and Seven takes over on Smith, allowing Bate to...miss the flipping splash off of Seven's shoulders. Bate is back with the airplane spin and now the flipping splash from Bate's shoulders connects for two.

Seven powerbombs Smith out of the corner and hits the Emerald Flosion for two more. It's back to Bate for a German suplex but Smith flips out and hits a Lionsault to a standing Bate

for another two. Bop and Bang drops Smith for two as Symbiosis comes out to watch. Bate gets backdropped onto the floor but here are Jack Starz and Dave Mastiff to cut Symbiosis off. Back in and a superkick gets two on Bate but Seven pulls Carter outside for a dragon suplex. That leaves Bate to hit an apron German suplex on Smith (geez), setting up the rebound lariat/dragon suplex combination to finish Smith at 9:59.

Rating: B-. This was the kind of match that can help Carter and Smith go a long way, even in defeat. They made the famous team sweat and that is more than most teams can do. Moustache Mountain is in a weird place as they are too big of a deal to be a team without the title reign but no one can really come off as a threat to them. That leaves them as singles wrestlers, which isn't going to be the best news for Smith. At least they're good when they get together though, which was the case here.

Jinny and Joseph Connors don't have much to say but Emilia McKenzie comes up. They run into Emilia McKenzie and Jinny mocks her, but McKenzie keeps training. Sounds like the next step towards McKenzie challenging Meiko Satomura for the Women's Title.

Jack Starz and Dave Mastiff are interrupted by Nina Samuels who is trying to have her own talk show. They aren't interested, but Samuels goes into a rant about Isla Dawn.

Dani Luna vs. Xia Brookside

They go with the grappling to the mat to start with Brookside having to slip out of a waistlock. Brookside tries to pick up the pace but her crossbody is caught in midair. A headscissors is countered into a faceplant though and Luna grabs a suplex for two. The armbar goes on to keep Brookside in trouble but she reverses another suplex into a small package for two of her own. Now it's a crossface chickenwing to stay on Brookside's shoulder but this time she fights up and hits a

middle rope hurricanrana. Some running dropkicks put Luna in trouble for a change and a neckbreaker gives Brookside two. What looks like a Codebreaker is countered into a World's Strongest Slam and a fall away slam. Luna flips a fireman's carry into a sitout powerbomb for the pin at 5:37.

Rating: C-. This was power vs. speed and it worked well enough for a short match. Brookside's downward trend continues but it is nice to see Luna getting somewhere. I'm not sure how much a win over Brookside really means, but a Brookside heel turn in the future would not surprise me. I'm jut not sure how well it would work.

Video on Blair Davenport being suspended but raiding the ring anyway.

Stevie Turner wants Davenport reinstated but Sid Scala will only think about it.

Sam Gradwell doesn't like Mark Andrews, who comes in for the pull apart fight.

Josh Morrell vs. Charlie Dempsey

This is Dempsey's debut (if you don't count a one off match) and he is an old school technical guy. Dempsey takes him down without issues and works on the wrist in a variety of ways. After escaping a quick armbar, it's a monkey flip to put Morrell down and we hit the pinfall reversal sequence. A Fujiwara armbar has Morrell screaming and Dempsey switches into a kneebar.

With that broken up, Dempsey sends him into the corner and comes out with a suplex for two. Morrell hits a kind of flipping powerbomb but Dempsey is back with a German suplex for two more. An armbar sets up...well it looked like a cover with Morrell's head hooked but Dempsey bent the lower half of the bent knee down and grasped his hands, making it something like a cover into a surfboard? Either way, Morrell taps at

6:13.

Rating: C. It was a fine debut with some crazy good submission stuff, though I'm going to need a name for that finisher so I don't have to try and describe it every time. They have something with the submission master in Dempsey, who looks just simple enough to seem like a threat. Nice start here, with the finish looking creative and deadly.

We get a sitdown interview between Ilja Dragunov and A-Kid. Dragunov talks about beating Walter but A-Kid talks about having experience. A-Kid isn't interested in picking a fight and asks what would have happened if Dragunov had been forced to face everyone instead of one man. We get Shayna Baszler's tap, nap or snap line and A-Kid talks about knowing that Dragunov is going to lose his temper. Dragunov promises to keep the title in two weeks.

Noam Dar and Wolfgang talk about what it means to win the Heritage Cup. Dar isn't quite as serious. The tournament final is next week.

Here's what's coming next week.

Joe Coffey vs. Jordan Devlin

Gallus is here with Coffey. Feeling out process to start with Devlin working on the wrist to limited avail. Coffey grabs a hammerlock so Devlin uses a flying mare to escape. A test of strength can't keep Devlin down but he is shocked when Coffey flips over into the standoff. The headlock takeover works a bit better for Devlin but Coffey fights out in a hurry. Coffey hits him in the face and clotheslines Devlin outside.

Back in and Coffey gets two off a side slam before cutting off a comeback with a running elbow to the face. Devlin crotches him in the corner though and there's a Backstabber to take him down. A running legdrop gets two on Coffey but he's strong enough to block a backslide attempt.

Devlin is back with a release Rock Bottom into a standing moonsault but he takes too much time MOCKING THE GALLUS POSE, allowing Coffey to launch him into the corner. The springboard spinning crossbody gives Coffey two but Devlin counters All The Best For The Bells with a Spanish Fly. Mark Coffey offers a distraction though, allowing Wolfgang to grab Joe's hand. The delay lets Joe score with All The Best For The Bells and the pin at 11:35.

Rating: B. The ending was a bit unnecessary but I guess they were going for the strength in numbers. That's a little weird when Devlin was the heel the whole time and Gallus has been leaning face for weeks, but at least they had a good match to get here. I could go for more of this and there is a good chance that they aren't done.

Devlin yells a lot to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Another good show here as they had a pair of pretty awesome bookending matches, which is more than you should expect in an hour long show. The talent is here and they have set up the title match in two weeks, but it would still be nice to have SOMETHING to look forward to. Getting fans back will help, but a Takeover would help even more. Still though, another solid week, which isn't even a surprise anymore.

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HIDDEN GEM: What's English For Wrestlemania Main Event?

It works for a reason.

Raw World Title: Randy Orton vs. HHH

Date: April 13, 2008

Location: Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham, England

Orton is defending and this is from a Raw house show about two weeks after Wrestlemania XXIV. HHH gets a monster pop and it makes sense that he would come out second. It's another handheld camera match, which is still weird to see in WWE. Orton drives him into the corner to start and we actually get a clean break. The dueling chants are on too as this is a red hot crowd. HHH runs Orton over and tells someone in the crowd to suck it before hitting a clothesline. The armbar goes on but Orton fights up and hammers away in the corner.

That just earns him a shoulder into the post and then HHH does it again for a bonus. We're clipped to HHH working on an armbar and throwing a charging Orton over the top. HHH gives chase but Orton catches him with a boot to the face on the way back in. The hanging DDT gives Orton two and he punches HHH around the ring in a nice visual. The camera shoots the ceiling for a bit and comes back to Orton getting two and HHH holding his ribs. Orton starts the circle stomp but misses a knee drop to give HHH a breather.

The camera goes nuts again and we come back to a rather aggressive chinlock. HHH fights up and is dropkicked right

back down, meaning the knee drop can connects this time. We go to the chinlock again but HHH gets in a shot to escape. Orton is up first and tries the RK0 but HHH shoves him off. Since this is wrestling, that means they're back to even and HHH makes the comeback. The facebuster gets two and they head outside with HHH whipping him into the barricade.

Back in and the Pedigree is broken up and the referee gets bumped. Now the RK0 connects but Orton can't follow up. A very delayed cover gets two and the fans are VERY happy with the kickout. The Punt is countered into a spinebuster so Orton rolls outside...where he grabs the belt for the DQ shot at 17:55 shown.

Rating: C+. The chinlock in the middle hurt things a bit but this was one of the better HHH vs. Orton matches that I've seen in a long time. They were moving out there and the crowd was digging the whole thing. You don't get to see that very often and the ending was fine enough as a way to keep them both strong. Good match here and I'm rather surprised by that one.

Post match HHH is right back up with a belt shot of his own, plus a Pedigree.

I'm Dropping Main Event

I'm a week behind with it already and I cannot bring myself to care to watch the same 6-10 minute matches with the same rotating cast. It has never been something people read anyway so I might as well drop it and free up some of my schedule.

Daily News Update – September 30, 2021

Monday Night Raw Star Undergoes Surgery.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/monday-night-raw-star-undergoes-surgery-2/>

Backstage News On Why Alexa Bliss Is Off WWE TV.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/backstage-news-alexa-bliss-off-wwe-tv/>

VIDEO: Title Change Takes Place On AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-title-change-takes-place-aew-dynamite/>

VIDEO: Another Former NXT Champion Coming To AEW.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-another-former-nxt-champion-coming-aew/>

Update On Randy Orton's WWE Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/update-randy-ortons-wwe-status/>

Another Former NXT Star Coming To AEW For Title Shot.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/sammy-guevaras-first-tnt-title-defense-former-nxt-star-next-week/>

WATCH: Emotional Speech After AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-emotional-speech-aew-dynamite/>

RUMOR: AEW's Creative Direction Has Changed In A Big Way.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-aews-creative-direction-changed-big-way/>

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Monday Night Raw – April 30, 2007: The One Night Whodunnit

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 30, 2007

Location: Gaylord Entertainment Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We are officially done with Backlash and that means it is time to start getting ready for Judgment Day. The show is in less than three weeks so it is probably going to feature a lot of rematches/fallout from the rematch/fallout show. That might not be the best thing in the world but WWE has been on a roll as of late. Let's get to it.

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

John Cena, with his title, runs into Vince McMahon, the new ECW World Champion. Vince: "What up Holmes? Peace out! The champ is here!" Cena thinks that unless ECW stands for Extremely Crazy White Guy, all he is seeing is an old guy in a durag. Shawn Michaels comes in to say Cena got lucky last night and wants one more shot. Cena is down but Vince says not so fast, because he makes the matches around here. Let's do it one more time, but Shawn has to win a match to get a shot at

Cena. Then the winner can come for the big one. Vince: "Peace out my brothers!" Cena: "Yeah he's lost it." He'll see Shawn later.

Opening sequence.

Edge vs. Randy Orton

Edge slaps him in the face to start and the chase is on around the ring. Back in and Orton pokes him in the eye (denying it of course) and the circle stomp is on. A knee drop gets two and it's time to hammer on Edge's head. Orton chokes on the middle rope and then snaps the neck across the rope to make it worse.

We take a break and come back with Orton being sent shoulder first into the post to give Edge a breather. A spear drives Orton off the apron and into the announcers' table for the big crash. With commentary taking a bit to come back, Edge only gets two inside. Edge's jumping knee gets two and the chinlock goes on. That's broken up so Edge drops him with a spinwheel kick, only to get crotched on top. Edge shoves him down but dives into a dropkick to leave them both down for a bit.

The slugout goes to Edge thanks to a thumb to the eye but Orton grabs a backbreaker for two. The powerslam gets the same so Edge snaps off the Edge-0-Matic for his own near fall. A double crossbody puts both of them down but it's Edge up first for an attempt to take the turnbuckle pad off. The referee catches him though, allowing Orton to score with a hard clothesline. Edge counters some right hands in the corner to drop him face first onto the buckle, meaning we've got some blood. The Impaler gets two and, after countering an RK0, Edge spears him down for the pin.

Rating: B. These two beat each other up very well and that's the kind of thing that is always a nice idea. It felt like a big time match and odds are this is what we were going to see last week. If they had been able to do that match before a

shorter but still great Cena vs. Michaels match, it could have been an all time classic Raw. Instead, it's a pair of awesome matches on back to back weeks.

We look at the end of Michaels vs. Cena from last week.

We look back at Bobby Lashley helping Santino Marella take the Intercontinental Title from Umaga.

Santino Marella is here for his first interview as champion, so we see him winning the title again. Santino talks about how he can't believe this is happening. His family is very happy but his first title defense is next week.

Last night at Backlash, Rob Van Dam talked about how happy Vince McMahon must be now that he has crushed ECW. It was counterculture and all about making wrestling fun again, but now Vince is ECW World Champion. This Vince As ECW Champion thing could have been AMAZING if ECW meant anything at this point.

Vince won't let Shane McMahon hold the ECW World Title belt because he's too annoyed at Van Dam. Tonight, Shane needs to make sure Van Dam is destroyed once and for all. Vince also thanks Shane for his help last night, prompting Shane to say he loves Vince and hug him. Vince freaks a bit but says Shane can hold the title. As Vince leaves, Shane can't help but start the ECW chants.

Edge is angry that Shawn Michaels is getting ANOTHER title shot when Edge didn't lose last night. He is going to insert himself back in the title picture whether anyone likes it or not. Get it? Got it? Good.

Jeff Hardy vs. Johnny Nitro

Lance Cade and Trevor Murdoch are on commentary and there are no seconds for a bit of a weird change. Hardy wastes no time with a Russian legsweep into the split legged cradle. Nitro is

right back with some right hands as Cade and Murdoch are being especially respectful of Hardy. Hardy fights out of a chinlock and avoids a charge in the corner. The Whisper in the Wind drops Nitro again and a sitout gordbuster gives Hardy two. Nitro gets in a shot to the face and heads up, only to get backdropped down. The Swanton finishes for Hardy.

Rating: C. These two could have a passable match in their sleep and they had another completely acceptable one here. I'm not sure why the Hardys vs. Cade/Murdoch seems to be continuing, but it isn't like there is anything else to do in the tag division. There are a few teams here and there, but are any of them worthy of a title program? Maybe Cryme Tyme? Anyway, were you expecting Hardy vs. Nitro to be bad?

Post match, Cade and Murdoch try to show Jeff some respect but he leaves out of caution.

We see some stills of last night's pretty great main event.

Video on Vince McMahon winning the ECW World Title last night.

Rob Van Dam vs. Umaga

Shane McMahon handles Umaga's introduction. We're joined in progress with Van Dam kicking away but getting shoved off the top for the big crash into the barricade. Back in and Umaga slowly hammers away before cutting off a comeback attempt with the Samoan drop. For some reason Van Dam tries to slam Umaga, which goes as well as you would expect. The sleeper on Umaga's back works slightly better until Van Dam gets rammed into the corner and tossed outside.

Umaga follows him outside and now the sleeper goes on again. This time Umaga rams Van Dam HARD into the steps for another break for a near countout. Back in and Umaga hits the running headbutt but misses the running hip attack in the corner. A basement dropkick and basement spinwheel kick have Shane panicking and Rolling Thunder gets two. Umaga's running splash

hits the post and there's the Five Star but Umaga grabs the throat on the landing. Some choking sets up the Samoan Spike to put Van Dam away.

Rating: C+. It was short but hard hitting as Van Dam was a unique challenger to Umaga. That's what you want out of something like this, though Umaga beating the top ECW star so soon might have been a little rushed. Still though, Umaga gets back on the right path in a pretty good match so it was a good use of TV time.

Vince McMahon comes out to pose, still as the best heel in the company.

Torrie Wilson and Carlito come up to Ric Flair in the back and Flair isn't happy with Carlito for yelling at him in Spanish last week. Carlito apologizes, which is all Flair needed, but he has also gotten them a match tonight with the World's Greatest Tag Team. If it goes badly, they can go their separate ways. Flair gives him a pep talk, but says this is his last chance. Flair leaves and Torrie asks if this is a good idea. Carlito: "RELAX!"

Shawn Michaels vs. John Cena

Non-title...and non-match as there is no Shawn. We cut to the back where Shawn is out cold.

Post break, Coach accuses John Cena of taking Shawn out, earning himself a grab by the shirt and a lift off the floor. Vince McMahon comes in to ask what is going on. Coach is going to find out what happened, but Vince wants Shawn wrestling TONIGHT. For some reason, Val Venis is there in street clothes checking on Shawn as well.

Ric Flair/Carlito vs. World's Greatest Tag Team

Torrie Wilson is here with Flair and Carlito. Flair starts with Haas and WOO's a bit before hiptossing Haas over.

Benjamin comes in to choke Carlito on the ropes but a dropkick gives Carlito two. For some reason Carlito goes into the wrong corner and it's Haas coming back in to stomp away. A backbreaker gives Haas two and we hit the reverse chinlock. Benjamin's backbreaker gets two and we hit a chinlock with Benjamin's knee in the back. Carlito fights up and gets over to Flair for the tag as everything breaks down...and Carlito knocks Flair out with a left hand. The brawl is on and we have a no contest.

Rating: C-. Another watchable match which was only there for the angle at the end. Flair isn't doing anything important at the moment so a quick pay per view match with Carlito is a good way to go for him. The match itself was what you would expect, but Flair vs. Carlito is going to work out.

Flair and Carlito fight up the ramp, but Carlito rakes the eyes and escapes.

Now Edge has been attacked and Coach isn't sure what to do. He wants Randy Orton though.

We recap the attacks on Michaels and Edge.

Here's Mr. Kennedy who says he didn't do that. You won't find a glove that fits his hand, because he has this briefcase. Kennedy could have cashed in his briefcase at Backlash but he chose not to. How many fans would like to see him cash in his briefcase right here in Nashville, Tennessee? The fans approve of the idea but that isn't going to happen.

Kennedy thinks it was wrong for Edge to wait until after John Cena had gone through an Elimination Chamber to cash in. He's going to be more fair and announce when he's cashing in. That would be in 335 days at Wrestlemania XXIV, when the new champion will be MR. KENNEDY!!! Kennedy.

Randy Orton has been attacked as well.

Coach comes in to recap the attacks to Vince McMahon, who says he knows who did it. Whoever did it did it because of John Cena, so Coach needs to send Cena to the ring to meet the man who did this.

Mickie James/Candice Michelle vs. Melina/Victoria

Candice chokes Victoria to no avail so it's off to Melina to miss a dropkick. Mickie comes in for some hair pulling and catfighting, which is not exactly Mickie's style. It's back to Victoria, who knocks Mickie outside and drives her into the apron. Melina grabs the cross arm choke but Mickie fights back up with a neckbreaker. That's enough for the hot tag to bring in Candice and everything breaks down. Mickie saves Candice from a double suplex and a rollup finishes Victoria.

Rating: D+. Candice was getting in a little offense here and there and that's probably a sign of the next push. It's easy to see why WWE would want to push her, though she still has a long way to go in the ring. Putting her in there with women like Mickie and Victoria will help a lot though so at least they have the right idea.

The ECW Originals don't like Vince McMahon as ECW World Champion. Tommy Dreamer cries, because he's Tommy Dreamer.

We recap tonight's attacks.

Here is John Cena to say whoever is behind this could have saved themselves a lot of time and come at him face to face. He's ready to fight...and here's the Great Khali, which makes Cena swallow hard. Cena charges out to start the fight on the floor and gets knocked around. They head inside with Cena's flying shoulder having no effect, earning himself a clothesline. A big boot puts Cena down again but he fights up and manages to get him in the FU. That's broken up with elbows to the face though and the double chokeslam plants Cena to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The wrestling started good and then went downhill as the show went on, but I liked the one night mystery to set up Cena's next challenger. It's the definition of a spring/early summer title program and there is nothing wrong with that. Khali running through all four members of the fatal four way in one night is a great symbolic move and now we get to move on to what could be an interesting (not necessarily in a good way) title match. Overall, another good night, which is nice to see.

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