

Jimmy Uso Arrested

Make your own penitentiary jokes.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-penitentiary-jimmy-uso-arrested-disorderly-conduct/>

Apparently he tried to fight a cop after he and Naomi were pulled over for going the wrong way on a one way street. The car just happened to smell of alcohol, though it doesn't appear Naomi, the driver, was drunk. No word on what this means for the title match on Sunday, but egads this comes off as such a dumb move no matter how you look at it. And now we're even more likely to see Shane and Miz retain. I'm so happy.

New Column: On Rollins vs. Lesnar

I think you can get this one.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-rollins-vs-lesnar/>

NXT UK – February 13, 2019: The UK Invasion



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT UK

Date: February 13, 2019

Location: Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

Things are getting more interesting around here as Walter continues to be the biggest thing to be added to the show since its inception (all those months ago). For now though, we're in Phoenix for some shows taped at the Royal Rumble Axxess. We should be in for some fun shows around here and some guest stars aren't out of the question. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Pedro Morales.

Opening sequence.

Here's Toni Storm to open things up. She won the Mae Young Classic and then it was Toni Time at Takeover: Blackpool. Toni knew that Rhea Ripley would be coming to get her title back though because Storm is a bully. She's beaten Ripley before though and she can do it again. This brings out Rhea, who now has what sounds like THIS IS MY BRUTALITY before her theme music. She's the first ever NXT UK Women's Champion and she's sick

of hearing the comparisons to Storm. The rematch is brought up and Storm says "that's nice". The fight is on with Rhea quickly bailing.

Noam Dar vs. Jordan Devlin

Devlin's wristlock is countered into a headlock, followed by some arm cranking on Devlin's arm for a change. That just earns him a release Rock Bottom into a standing moonsault but the fans think he still sucks. We hit the double arm crank on Dar for a bit before he fights up and kicks Devlin off the ropes.

An exchange of kicks puts both guys down and Dar slaps on the ankle lock. That's escaped as well and the Irish Ace Cutter gives Devlin two. They head outside with Devlin loading up a whip into the steps, only to have Travis Banks come out to yell. Dar's ankle goes into the steps but Devlin stops to fight Banks, allowing Dar to grab a rollup for the surprise pin at 10:20.

Rating: C. I'm not big on either guy (though I'm much higher up than I used to be) and this was a completely middle of the road match. Neither does much that grabs your attention and while this was little more than a way to advance Devlin vs. Banks, it wasn't exactly thrilling. Then again nor was it bad, so we'll go with right in the middle.

Post match Devlin stays on Dar, drawing Banks in for the big fight.

Next week: Ripley vs. Storm for the title.

Two weeks from now: Walter vs. Kassius Ohno.

Jinny vs. Mia Yim

Jinny takes her straight down into a front facelock until Mia reverses into one of her own. An armbar is broken up just as fast and Mia grabs a rollup for two. The running hurricanrana doesn't work either as Mia cartwheels her way out and takes Jinny down for some slaps to the arms. With none of the holds working, Jinny goes with blunt force trauma in the form of a Downward Spiral into the middle rope. A slap to the face gives Jinny two and she pulls on Mia's arms for good measure.

That's broken up and Mia slaps on a Tarantula of her own. Mia adds a neckbreaker for the double knockdown before firing off some shots to the face. A Cannonball connects as you can see the Axxess venue in the background. It's not a bad thing but it's just so odd to see. Jinny misses a charge and gets German suplexed into the corner, sending herself outside for a much needed breather. Back in and Jinny scores with a kick to the head, allowing her to throw her feet on the ropes for the pin at 7:55.

Rating: C-. Jinny is someone who seems like she would gain a lot from some talking segments that get to showcase herself outside the ring a bit more. Her work is fine enough, but the only things I know about her is she's mean and cares about fashion. I need a lot more than that, and it would be nice if they let us have something.

Wolfgang vs. Pete Dunne

Non-title and no seconds here, oddly enough. Wolfgang goes for the arm to start so Dunne spins out and takes Wolfgang down with a total of no effort. Another grab of the wrist sends Wolfgang out to the floor and it's time for a breather. Back in and a referee distraction (stop telling Dunne the rules) lets Wolfgang get in a forearm, setting up the required chinlock.

Dunne fights out of that as quickly as anyone fights out of a chinlock and nails a middle rope dropkick to the knee. An ankle lock sends Wolfgang bailing to the ropes, followed by sending Dunne face first into the apron. Back in and Dunne stomps on the arm as Nigel talks about Wolfgang having a SUBURBAN COMMANDO tattoo on his forearm. Well I'm a fan for life.

Wolfgang drops him ribs first across the top rope to bang Dunne up but Dunne avoids a charge and is right back with a bunch of slaps in the corner. Dunne flips out of a release German suplex and nails the X Plex for two. It's time to bend the fingers back, followed by the stomping to Wolfgang's head. Dunne pulls him into a triangle until a buckle bomb breaks things up.

The spinning release fisherman's suplex gets two but Dunne nips up before

the Howling. There's a stomp to the fingers but Wolfgang is right back with a hard clothesline. Darren Young's Gut Check gives Wolfgang a very delayed two as Wolfgang grabs his knee. He gets up limping, prompting Nigel to say he thinks Wolfgang has a bad knee. That kind of line sounds so out of place from him. Anyway the Howling is countered into the finger bending to make Wolfgang tap at 10:43.

Rating: B-. Leave it to Wolfgang to give Dunne one of his worst matches ever and leave it to Dunne to still make it entertaining. That's not fair to Wolfgang as he was pretty good here, but the problem is having him get in on the same ground floor as Bate, Dunne and Seven. That's being the other rookies in 2002 and it just doesn't work. Walter is the end game for Dunne anyway, so keeping him strong like this is the only way to go.

Overall Rating: C+. Perfectly watchable show here which felt like a combination of a regular show and a special. The whole show feels like it's on hold until Walter vs. Dunne is set up and that's fine, though it can't last forever. I can imagine that one taking place in April over Wrestlemania weekend and if it just happens to be in New York, so be it. Anyway, it should be a blast whenever it happens because they're putting in the effort to build the characters, which is what matters most.

Results

Noam Dar b. Jordan Devlin – Rollup

Jinny b. Mia Yim – Kick to the head

Pete Dunne b. Wolfgang – Dunne bent his finger back

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Monday Night Raw – September 13, 2004: I Deserve Cake



IMG Credit: WWE

Monday Night Raw

Date: September 13, 2004

Location: KeyArena, Seattle, Washington

Attendance: 5,500

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's the night after Unforgiven and things are back to the normal levels of bleak. In this case, that's due to HHH winning the World Title again, because Randy Orton had his four week reign and needed to be eradicated once and for all. I'm sure he'll get some title shots going forward, but it's pretty clear that his time has already come and gone. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Ric Flair, Batista and a bunch of women are in the ring for HHH's title celebration. Flair introduces the new champ as the confetti falls. Great now it's going to be all over ringside all night. There's also a huge cake, which is clearly the kind with a person inside to jump out. HHH says you can feel the excitement in the air because the king is back on his throne. This is the happiest he's sounded in months, which certainly does make sense for him.

All of the girls kneel in front of him, so HHH says there will be plenty of time for getting on their knees. Normally I'd make a PG joke but the Diva Search girls have made that one sound tame. HHH talks about Orton spitting on him a few weeks back, but now he's laughing again. Then he spit in the fans' faces and they can't even wipe it off because he's the World Heavyweight Champion.

The girls rip his shirt off but HHH looks at the cake, which he knows has someone inside. Flair and Batista didn't send it, so it must have been Bischoff. An explosion goes off and of course it's Orton to take out Evolution. So....was there a girl in there in the first place and Orton kidnapped her? Or did he just pay off the production people? HHH gets thrown into the hole in the cake, leaving his feet kicking in the air for a funny bit. Not funny enough to validate HHH getting another long promo or another title reign or how obvious the whole thing was, but funny.

It's so funny that we look at it again after a break. During said break, HHH got out of the cake and kept falling over from the icing.

HHH yells at Bischoff and gets Orton in a handicap match tonight.

Chris Benoit vs. Robert Conway

William Regal comes out to cancel out Sylvan Grenier. Conway jumps him to start so Benoit slides between the legs and goes with the chops. It's way too early for the Sharpshooter as Conway bails outside for a breather. Back in and Conway snaps off a suplex to take over, meaning we hit the

stomping and choking. A neck crank doesn't last long as Benoit fights up, only to get thrown to the floor almost immediately.

Back in and Benoit hooks a quick small package for two but Conway chokes him right back down. Conway has him in trouble again as Benoit is giving Conway more than he's ever gotten in his career. Benoit finally fights back with forearms and a snap suplex for two of his own. It's time to crank things up and Benoit rolls some German suplexes, setting up the Crossface for the win.

Rating: C-. That's a fine way to go with Benoit, as he made Conway look good for a little while and then won without much effort as soon as he started putting in some effort. Benoit isn't about to lose to Conway but Conway can get a lot out of just beating on Benoit for a few minutes. Nothing great or even very good, but what we got was fine.

Shelton Benjamin is coming back.

Taboo Tuesday is coming.

Here's Stacy Keibler for this week's Diva Search segment, which is a Seattle Slugfest. Molly Holly (with her regular hair) comes out to interrupt instead though and says the girls can have their "sl**" fest later (that's a major swear from Molly). For right now though, it's time for the two of them to have a competition of their own, with Stacy getting the pick.

That would be a dance off, but Molly had eight years of ballet classes. She requests to dance to William Regal's music and does just fine, as expected. Stacy does the kind of dance you would expect from her and seems to be declared the winner. Molly jumps her from behind, drawing in Nidia, Gail Kim, Victoria and Trish Stratus for the big brawl. Bischoff, six woman, bell.

Trish Stratus/Molly Holly/Gail Kim vs. Stacy Keibler/Nidia/Victoria

Joined in progress with the Nidia hitting Trish with a middle rope crossbody. A spinebuster cuts Nidia down for two though and some right hands keep Nidia in trouble. It's off to Gail as the fans want Stacy,

likely due to her barely existing skirt. Gail's half crab has Nidia screaming until she makes a rope. Molly comes in as Lawler makes jokes about the Diva Search girls boxing later. A neckbreaker takes Gail down and thankfully it's off to Victoria instead of Stacy. Victoria gets to clean house on her own until Molly ties her in the Tree of Woe. That's enough for Stacy to tag herself in though and grab a rollup to pin Molly.

Rating: D. What were you expecting here? Stacy has no business being in there and Nidia isn't exactly good either. That leaves four women to carry a six woman tag and it's not the easiest thing in the world when one of the women worked most of the match. It wasn't good, but at least it was short and that's about as good as it gets.

Kane comes in to Bischoff and wants Shawn Michaels tonight. Bischoff can't do that as Shawn is booked for the Highlight Reel, so Kane grabs him by the throat. Since Shawn isn't happening tonight, Kane can fight him any other night. As for tonight, Bischoff will find someone and Kane can have a No DQ match with no questions asked.

It's time for the Highlight Reel with Jericho talking about last night's brutal match but it was all worth it (even the ladder suppository) to get the Intercontinental Title back. That's a record breaking seven times, which brings him to his guest, who is a former Intercontinental Champion in his own right. This brings out Shawn, who talks about beating Kane even uglier than he was before. Jericho agrees that it was impressive, but not quite as impressive as winning the Intercontinental Title for the SEVENTH TIME.

Actually that's why Shawn is out here, because they're neck and neck over the years. They've met in Seattle before so let's do it one more time for the title. Cue Christian and Tyson Tomko with Christian talking about how awesome his career has been. He's so awesome that he should get the Intercontinental Title shot right now. Shawn says deal, as soon as Christian beat him. Jericho says not so fast, because he knows what is going to happen.

Everyone knows what's going to happen and is willing to read the front row's minds. A lot of fans are really excited to see it but section 53

knows that Tyson Tomko is going to interfere. There's a kid that knows the solution though: let's have a tag match! So the kid is the reason we're not seeing Shawn vs. Christian or Jericho? Someone throw that kid in a closet, cover him in peanut butter and let a trio of rabid squirrels loose.

Christian/Tyson Tomko vs. Shawn Michaels/Chris Jericho

Joined in progress with Shawn chopping away at Christian (with bad ribs) before handing it off to Jericho for a suplex. It's already back to Shawn to slug away at Tomko in the corner before tripping him down for a basement dropkick. One heck of a clothesline takes Shawn's head off (Lawler: "PROBLEM SOLVED!") and the villains take over. JR uses a neck crank to recap the evening (not the worst idea in the world), followed by Christian coming in to stomp away.

A flying forearm gets Shawn out of trouble though and it's back to Jericho so the pace can pick up. The springboard dropkick puts Tomko on the floor with Christian following him, setting up the big stereo dives. We take a break (allowing me to drool over the idea Shawn and Jericho as a full time team) and come back with Jericho in trouble as Christian slaps on a chinlock with a knee in the back.

Christian's backbreaker gets two and Tomko pulls on the ribs again. Jericho finally avoids a charge from Christian and the hot tag brings in Shawn to clean house. The top rope elbow hits Tomko but Christian crotches Shawn against the post for a save. Jericho cuts Christian off and it's Sweet Chin Music to finish Tomko.

Rating: D+. That's a "well that happened" if I've ever seen one. The more talented team won and it's not like there was anything important happening here. You can't tease a Shawn vs. Jericho or Shawn vs. Christian match and then go with this lame tag match, but for some reason that's as good as we can get. Not a terrible match, but quite the downgrade.

Post match Christian gives Shawn the Unprettier on the floor.

Simon Dean, a fitness guru with his own Simon System of weight loss

products, is looking forward to helping us lose weight. This is set up like an old commercial for a product, complete with a phone number and payment plan, which gives me some nice flashbacks to the old WCW days.

It's Diva Search time with Coach hosting. The three come out with JR having to handle the mini bios, making him sound like a very sad man indeed. Joy is eliminated so Christy and Carmella put on the huge boxing gloves. Thankfully Vince McMahon comes out to interrupt and talk about next week being the season premiere of Raw.

Therefore, next week will see a groundbreaking announcement that affects Bischoff, everyone in the locker room and every fan around here. As for tonight though, Vince has an announcement...for Coach. Instead of the women fighting each other, they're going to beat up Coach, who has to stand in one place or be fired. The referee even gives them some suggested targets and each of them gets thirty seconds.

Christy hits him low and chokes him down before biting him on the back of the pants. Carmella goes more traditional with rights to the face, one of which knocks Coach down. That means Christy wins, because duh. The winner of the whole thing is announced next week, thank goodness.

Eugene has a very separated shoulder after last week's attack from HHH.

Kane vs. Gene Snitsky

No DQ. Kane clotheslines him down to start and hits a big boot to the side of the head as Lawler makes fun of JR for not knowing Snitsky. A raised boot in the corner slows Kane down and Snitsky hits those big right hands of his, which start with a big pull back and finish with a bigger follow through. It looks like he's aiming for Kane's stomach.

Snitsky hits him low to cut off a chokeslam attempt but Kane kicks him down again. Kane wraps the chair around Snitsky's throat but Lita gets in and takes it off. That means an argument, allowing Snitsky to chair Kane in the back, sending him right onto Lita. That means a no contest, and likely a miscarriage.

We get the big stretcher job as Lita holds her stomach and Kane tells her

that the baby is going to be ok. After a break, we get a BABY KILLER chant, which you don't get to hear very often.

Smackdown Rebound.

Post break, Kane helps Lita into an ambulance as Stacy and Victoria look on.

Evolution vs. Randy Orton

Flair jumps Orton before the bell so Orton backdrops him down to check off the Bingo square. It's off to HHH (Not Batista first?) to get punched in the face but Orton slides outside and pulls Batista down onto the apron. Batista comes in legally so Orton slugs away again until a spinebuster takes him down. Now HHH is willing to come in for some shots to the face but the Pedigree is countered with a slingshot, sending HHH crotch first into the buckle. The RKO is loaded up but Batista comes in with the clothesline and that's a lame DQ.

Post match the beatdown is on until Shelton Benjamin makes his return for the save...and gets beaten down. Benoit makes the real save and Batista takes the beatdown to end the show. Wouldn't it have been more productive to have those run-ins in reverse? Eh at least the six man should be good.

Overall Rating: D. That ending segment is a perfect compliment to the opener: Orton gets the better of HHH at the beginning and the end, but none of that really matters as HHH is still the champion. That's not exactly something that makes me want to see where things are going, because things are going in the direction of more HHH on top with HAHA I'M STILL CHAMPION being the big closing line every week. It's been that way for far too long now and that's not the right way to make me want to keep watching.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complet>

[e-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/](#)

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

NXT – February 13, 2019: When The Stars Are Away, It's Still A Great Show (I'm Bad At Rhyming)



IMG Credit: WWE

NXT

Date: February 13, 2019

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson

We're coming up on the build towards New York and that's going to be a big night, with some of the card starting to come into focus. The big

story continues to be Johnny Gargano vs. Tommaso Ciampa, but Velveteen Dream is getting involved as well, which could make for some very interesting curves. He does certainly know how to shake things up. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Dominik Dijakovic vs. Shane Thorne

Thorne gets smart by going after the arm to start, including wrapping it around the ropes and kicking away a bit, followed by a dropkick to the side of the head. Dijakovic shrugs it off with some power but Thorne stays smart by wrenching the arm some more. A belly to back suplex puts Dijakovic down but he superkicks Thorne off the top for a big crash. Dijakovic, who stands 6'7, nails a big springboard spinning ax handle to the floor (Fans: "FEAST YOUR EYES!"), setting up Feast Your Eyes for the pin at 4:22.

Rating: C. I still don't know why his name isn't just Dominic Dijak but at least he got a win here and looked fine doing so. Thorne has nowhere to go but up as he's starting from scratch and looked good here. I hope he gets at least a chance and in NXT, they might be willing to actually give him a chance. Nice little match here that actually had me wondering for a bit.

The Undisputed Era says they're having a down start to their year but losing the Tag Team Titles mean they're all free to go for singles gold. Tonight, Adam Cole is starting with Ricochet.

We look back at the end of last week's show with Io Shirai pinning Shayna Baszler.

Shirai wants the title but Bianca Belair isn't sure about that.

Humberto Carrillo and Stacy Ervin Jr. are here for a tag match (with Mauro doing their introduction via voiceover for some reason) but Kassius Ohno interrupts. He knows how the crowd is around here but he won't be around much longer. Instead he's going somewhere to be appreciated...and

here's Keith Lee to knock him out with one shot to the face. Lee says he could have hit Ohno in the "dangly bits" like Ohno did to him and apologizes for the interruption.

Humberto Carrillo/Stacy Ervin Jr. vs. Street Profits

The Profits mock Ohno, who is still out as they walked past. Carrillo and Ford start things off with some fast paced counters, capped off by stereo missed dropkicks. A whip into the corner just lets Carrillo flip around a bit, followed by some rather nice armdrags into an armbar. Dawkins comes in with a heavy shoulder but Carrillo is right back up with a spinning kick to the face. A running shooting star gets two on Dawkins but Ervin walks into a rather fast spear to put him in trouble.

The chinlock doesn't last long so Ford hits a SCARY belly to back, dropping Ervin on the back of his head so hard that the referee immediately slides over to check on him. Ervin is right back up and rolls over for the tag to Carrillo so house can be cleaned. A handspring elbow drops Dawkins and a big dive into an armdrag sends Ford outside. Everything breaks down and a very high moonsault gets two on Dawkins. Back up and Ervin gets caught in an electric chair, setting up the Domsday Blockbuster to give Ford the pin at 6:15.

Rating: C+. Some of those dives and flips looked great and I could go for more of either team. I've liked the Profits for a long time now and having them get into the title picture would be fine. The same is true for Ervin and Carrillo, even though the latter is already up on the main roster, as he should be.

Post match the Profits say they want in on the title picture because they're ready to go to war at any time, even with the War Raiders. This brings out Fabian Aichner and Marcel Barthel to say they should get the shot. Cue Oney Lorcan and Danny Burch power walking to the ring for a three way argument but the War Raiders come out to request more fighting over the titles. The Undisputed Era comes in from behind but the Raiders clear the ring without much trouble.

Johnny Gargano says 2018 was an up and down year but he knows his endgame. Now he knows what he wants to do and is ready to show the locker

room. Johnny Wrestling is back.

Next week: Gargano defends the North American Title against Velveteen Dream.

Taynara Conti vs. Aliyah

Aliyah's gear is designed by Versace. Conti wastes no time in trying an armbar but Aliyah is right back up with a faceplant as Vanessa Borne is out at ringside. Aliyah kicks her in the back a few times but gets sent face first into the middle buckle. Some throws by the arm have Aliyah in more trouble and a kick to the face makes it even worse. The armbar over the ropes stays on the arm but Borne grabs Conti's leg, allowing Aliyah to slam her off the top. A series of kicks to the back of the head makes Conti tap at 2:52.

Post match Borne raises her head but here's an angry Shayna Baszler to chase them off. Jessamyn Duke and Marina Shafir come in from behind though and it's a big beatdown to all three. Shayna says this is the new reality.

Video on Velveteen Dream winning the Worlds Collide tournament and getting the North American Title shot.

Adam Cole vs. Ricochet

Cole starts fast with right hands in the corner before going after the leg. The knee is wrapped around the post and then around the rope back inside as Cole certainly has a focus. Ricochet gets in an enziguri for a breather but Cole is right back on him with more shots to the knee.

A knee crusher keeps Ricochet in trouble but he's right back with a hard clothesline off the good leg. Somehow he's fine enough to hit a standing moonsault for two so Cole goes right back to the knee. The fireman's carry backbreaker gives Cole two of his own but he misses an enziguri. Ricochet grabs a suplex, only to get caught in the brainbuster onto the knee. That's only two as well so Ricochet is right back up with a reverse hurricanrana.

Ricochet gets to the top but seems to slip/have his knee give out on what

looked like a Swanton attempt. They forearm it out with Cole getting the better of things but taking too long going up top. Ricochet's elbows don't work as Cole knocks him down, only to have Ricochet pop back up. Some rolling suplexes set up Vertigo (Samoan driver) to finish Cole at 15:15.

Rating: B+. This was a heck of a match with a different side of Ricochet coming out. It's cool that he got to do some stuff other than the flips for a change and having something like Vertigo as a more traditional finisher can help keep the big spots fresh. Cole was working hard too and they had a good story with the knee. I liked this more than I thought I would and it was a great main event.

Post match the Undisputed Era runs in to beat down Ricochet. Aleister Black tries to come in for the save and gets taken out as well to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. I know the Gargano vs. Ciampa feud is becoming an all time classic, but it's a good sign that they can go almost completely away from it for a week and have a rather solid show. Other than Gargano's promo, there was nothing about them on here and it was nice for a change. That's a very good sign for the future and hopefully something they keep up. I say hopefully with a bit of a smile as they've done it for years now. Anyway, very good show, as you probably knew in advance.

Results

Dominik Dijakovic b. Shane Thorne – Feast Your Eyes

Street Profits b. Humberto Carrillo/Stacy Ervin Jr. – Doomsday Blockbuster to Ervin

Aliyah b. Taynara Conti – Kicks to the head

Ricochet b. Adam Cole – Vertigo

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out

the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Smackdown – February 12, 2019: Almost In Paradise



IMG Credit: WWE

Smackdown

Date: February 12, 2019

Location: Huntington Center, Toledo, Ohio

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Byron Saxton, Corey Graves

It's the go home show for Elimination Chamber and we have some big matches to get through. As was the case last night on Raw, we'll have some kind of a match to determine the other team starting the women's tag

team Elimination Chamber match. On the opposite end, there is also a gauntlet match to determine who will enter the men's Elimination Chamber match last. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Pedro Morales. I'm sure we'll get the full video tribute on Raw.

We see the end of last night's Raw with Charlotte replacing Becky Lynch in the Raw Women's Title match at Wrestlemania. Still works for me.

A member of New Day will replace the injured Mustafa Ali in the Elimination Chamber. It was going to be one of them or Rey/Andrade so that's fine.

Here's Charlotte to open things up. After mocking the BECKY chants, Charlotte talks about how Becky screwed up last night, just like she always has. It was Becky who got hurt in November and gave Charlotte the spot instead, all so the myth of the Man could continue while Charlotte went to battle. She's the background of the women's division so Vince McMahon made a business decision so everything could work.

Becky isn't coming out here right now because she's a flash in the pan and not the kind of person Vince is taking a chance on. You can boo her now because she's dedicating her win to Becky Lynch. Charlotte will be her in the front row at Elimination Chamber because we might have a new champion and she might have a new Wrestlemania opponent. Great heel promo here, as Charlotte plays that character to near perfection.

Carmella/Naomi vs. IIconics vs. Fire and Desire

The losers start the Elimination Chamber with Bayley/Sasha Banks. Before the match, all three teams talk about how they should be champions and how they have an advantage. Mandy and Carmella trade waistlocks to start as Graves praises the IIconics for being smart enough not to start since losing is all that matters here. Sonya comes in and gets kicked in the ribs a few times, allowing Naomi to grab a quickly broken armbar. Naomi's splits splash gets two and it's back to Carmella, who gets taken down

without much effort. Of course her response is to dance because it's all about showing off rather than hurting someone.

Mandy tags herself in but has to run from Naomi, who catches up to her on the floor as we take a break. Back with Carmella caught in a waistlock because Carmella seems to exist to dance and be in trouble. They both hit crossbodies at the same time (well Carmella just stood up straight instead of jumping or turning for a double knockdown). Mandy and Naomi come in off the hot tags to clean house, including the spinning jawbreaker from Naomi. The split legged moonsault finishes Mandy at 8:58.

Rating: D+. When did I start not liking Carmella that much? She's just kind of there as a person to fill in a spot but she's still the woman that was beating Charlotte and Asuka last year despite there being no reason for that to have happened. It's hard to let go of that, though it's not like she and Naomi have any real chance of winning the titles.

We get a graphic showing which two teams will be starting the match, which looks like it was made in 2004.

Bayley says Sasha will be in the Chamber on Sunday.

Tamina and Nia Jax say no one is walking out of the Chamber once they get done with them.

Liv Morgan will walk through fire for Sarah Logan and it's going to be a new side of the Riott Squad on Sunday.

Mustafa Ali talks about the big hits he's been taking and he's upset about not having an opportunity at the WWE Championship. This is not the end and he'll be back because he writes his story.

Here are Miz and Shane McMahon for McMizTV (take me now). Last week Miz was doing a photo shoot for his reality show and Shane was filming a guest spot for NCIS: Los Angeles. With that out of the way, here are this week's guests: the Usos. They're going to stand instead of having a seat and talk about how Miz and Shane may be champions but they don't know each other. We get the Tag Team Test, which is listing off various facts about your partner, though Miz whispers the answers in Shane's ear. Miz:

“WHAT’S MY FAVORITE FOOD? Quiche.” Shane: “QUICHE! Quiche?”

They bring up the Mandy Rose issue before Shane threatens to hit Jimmy so hard that Jey will feel it. The Usos hit their catchphrase and drop the mic but Shane says the titles are the only things that are real. Shane: “You dig?” Double superkicks leave the champs laying, as it somehow becomes more obvious that they’re retaining the titles on Sunday. You know, because Shane McMahon as a champion is just something that happens in 2019.

Video on the Million Man March.

Here are Daniel Bryan and Rowan, with the former calling the fans fickle. He doesn’t need to be in the Elimination Chamber because it’s far more important that he keep the WWE Championship and help the world. He’s cut off though and we have a lot of time for the main event.

Gauntlet Match

Non-title but the winner gets to enter the Chamber last. Bryan and...Kofi Kingston start things off. I do love how they tease that it’s going to be anyone other than the singles member of the team. Bryan takes him down with a headlock to start and flips backwards into a leglock. Kofi sends Bryan outside, only to have Bryan come back in with a wristlock. Some knees to the ribs keep Kofi in trouble and it’s the surfboard double stomp to the knees.

Kofi fights up and kicks Bryan to the floor, setting up a big dive as we take a break. Back with Kofi in trouble again as Bryan hits a running dropkick to the back, sending Kofi to the apron. A middle rope knee to the back looks to set up the Swan Dive but Bryan only hits mat. Kofi is right back with a Boom Drop and a flipping splash for two.

Kofi’s springboard spinning crossbody gets two but Bryan ties him in the Tree of Woe for a sliding dropkick. A belly to back superplex is countered with Kofi landing on Bryan’s face as we take a break. Back with Bryan winning a strike off and hitting the YES Kicks, including the big one for two. They hit the pinfall reversal sequence but you don’t grapple with Bryan, who reverses into the LeBell Lock. Kofi manages a rope though

and Bryan goes up, only to dive into a dropkick (despite landing on his feet before Kofi hit him).

Rowan trips Kofi so Big E. and Xavier go after him, earning a triple elimination. Bryan kicks away but misses the running corner dropkick, allowing Rowan, who I guess just stayed, to pull Kofi outside and send him into the timekeeper's area. That means another ejection (or maybe a first) and it's Bryan charging straight into Trouble in Paradise for the big upset at 24:30.

Jeff Hardy is in third and we come back with Kofi missing a dive into the barricade. Hardy jumps off the steps to take him out but the Swanton misses. Kofi can't follow up though, allowing Jeff to hit the basement dropkick, which is countered into a rollup for two. The slingshot dropkick in the corner misses but Jeff catches him on top. That means a high crossbody for two, followed by the SOS to get rid of Hardy at 33:18.

Samoa Joe is in fourth and we come back with Joe hitting his corner enziguri for a close two. The abdominal stretch goes on, followed by a chinlock but Kofi sends him outside and hits a dive for a double eight count. Back in and Joe blasts him with a clothesline, followed by an atomic drop to put Kofi down again. The running backsplash gets two and Joe is incredibly frustrated.

Kofi gets to the apron for a springboard but Joe shoves him down, allowing him to stand next to the ropes and calmly count with the referee. It's only an eight count again though and the neck crank is on. Kofi fights up and tries some clotheslines but gets caught in the Koquina Clutch. That means a climb up the corner though and Kofi flips back to pin Joe at 46:22.

Joe isn't done though and suplexes the heck out of Kofi, followed by a Koquina Clutch on the floor. Shouldn't that be a DQ since the next fall begins immediately? AJ Styles runs out fifth for the save and punches Joe to the back. We come back with Kofi barely able to get in the ring and AJ saying he doesn't have to do this. Kofi says he can do this and shoves AJ, who slugs him down to start the next fall. A backbreaker gives AJ two and he starts in on the knee, followed by a snap suplex for two.

They hit a quick pinfall reversal sequence until AJ gets an STO backbreaker to really put Kofi down. Kofi fights back again and they head to the apron with Kofi missing a hard charge to slam knee first into the post. Somehow Kofi dives back in at nine and blocks a super hurricanrana to send AJ crashing to the mat. A top rope splash to AJ's standing back (kind of like Shadows Over H***) gets two but AJ pulls him into the Calf Crusher. Kofi finally taps at 59:57 so here are Big E. and Xavier to carry him out. RK0 outta nowhere finishes AJ at 1:00:58.

Rating: B-. You knew this was going to be long but the important thing is that it didn't feel long. Kofi's performance was great and you could make a case for him getting the Fastlane title shot assuming Bryan retains on Sunday. A nice celebration of his career is a fine idea and something that would work fine on a nothing pay per view like Fastlane. The ending was pretty clear, but there's nothing wrong with something like that in this case. Good match, with Kofi getting a very nice rub.

Overall Rating: C+. This was a really different kind of show with only two matches, though both of them mattered for Sunday. That made this show feel WAY more like a go home show because it wasn't spending time on stuff for Wrestlemania. Aside from the opening promo, this was all about Elimination Chamber and that's what Monday should have felt like. There's time to set up Wrestlemania later and putting some material in here is fine, but treat Sunday like it matters, even if it really doesn't all that much.

Results

Carmella/Naomi b. IIconics and Fire and Desire – Split legged moonsault to Rose

Randy Orton won a gauntlet match last eliminating AJ Styles – RK0

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

How to win Jackpot in Lucky Nugget Casino Nz

Though there is a binding law that obligates all betting firms in New Zealand to continuously educate all punters about the need to take gambling as a recreational facility, on an occasional basis, Gambling has been able to create a huge fortune for lots of people who have participated in the Jackpot slots games.

While the percentage of punters who have earned a fortune from gambling is considerably small when the overall betting populace is considered, the fact that they have been able to achieve this feat signifies that it can be repeated by others. Your first step toward winning a Jackpot as a New Zealand Punter is by placing stakes on Jackpots slots games.

Types of Online Casinos

Unlike playing in the brick and mortar casino, online casinos are able to offer all lovers of casino games more betting options and variations without taking any physical space. This signifies that you can always be assured of finding any casino

game of choice that interests you no matter how inconspicuous you think it is. Slots games, Blackjack, Video Poker, Baccarat, Craps, Roulette, Live Poker, Bingo and many others can be found in any of the variations that interest you either by using our search option or by visiting any of our recommended casino websites. All the casino games listed here can be played for free or with real money.

Casino Bonus

Being a competitive industry, there are many ways of earning bonuses while playing casino games. Apart from the bonus offers programmed in the games (especially slots games), you could earn a bonus as a new punter (this is mostly activated after the first deposit) or by playing regularly on any of the listed casino websites. Most times, the bonus comes in the form of “free spins” or as a “multiplier on your earning” – You also have the opportunity to try to win your jackpot in the New Zealand Online Casino Lucky Nugget – <http://www.real-money-pokies.co.nz/lucky-nugget-real-money-pokies-casino.html>

How to Win Jackpot

The fact that there is only a hand full of Jackpot winners confirms our sentiment about jackpot in its entirety. There is no universal formula toward winning it simply because it is a purely chance-based game. Despite being completely unpredictable, your only chance of winning it is by participating. Visit any of the listed casino websites listed here to participate.

Why you should consider playing Online Casino

Online casinos are the premium service of betting in its

entirety. With improved technology, playing online casino has elevated the fun status by increasing betting options and simultaneously exposing punters to bigger winning opportunities. For non-gamblers, registrations or downloads are not needed to enjoy any of the casino games available to New Zealand residents. For punters willing to win real money from casino games, you will surely find worthy options from the recommended casino websites (all licensed by the New Zealand Gambling Commission) contained in our catalogue.

Pedro Morales Passes Away At 76

<https://www.wwe.com/article/pedro-morales-passes-away>

Pedro is someone who doesn't get the recognition he deserves. He was the first Latino World Champion in the WW(W)F and the first ever Triple Crown Champion. As for his legacy, he still holds the record for most combined days as Intercontinental Champion. His reign of 1027 days as WWF World Champion is the fifth longest of all time, with only Bruno (twice), Hogan and Backlund being ahead of him. He's not that well remembered but the New York fans loved him and there's a reason he was champion for more than twice as long as Lesnar's big Universal Title reign.

Impact Wrestling – February 8, 2019: Lucha Awesome



IMG Credit: Impact Wrestling

Impact Wrestling

Date: February 8, 2019

Location: Fronton Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

Commentators: Don Callis, Josh Matthews

Things are starting to pick up around here with one of the biggest matches we'll be seeing in Mexico as LAX defends the Tag Team Titles against the Lucha Bros. That could be a heck of a match with four guys who can work well together and tear the house down with the right amount of time. It's likely to be better than the World Title feud, which still isn't doing anything of note. Let's get to it.

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

The opening recap opens while serving as a recap.

Opening sequence.

Willie Mack/Rich Swann vs. Crist Brothers

The Brothers jump the gun before the bell and take over to start, though I'm not sure the match ever officially got underway. Mack gets sent outside and it's Swann caught in the wrong corner for the double teaming. That doesn't last long though as Mack comes back in and sends the

Brothers outside for the running flip dive. Back up and the Brothers drop Mack onto the apron, setting up a Crossface back inside.

Mack crawls over and bites the rope for the break (that's certainly different) so Dave superkicks him into a rollup for two. The chinlock doesn't last long so Jake goes with a chinlock to mix things up a bit. It's back to Dave and a double clothesline allows the hot tag to Swann. Everything breaks down and Rolling Thunder into a splash gives Swann two but the Brothers are right back up with a spike Tombstone for the same. A double Stunner from Mack sets up a double handspring cutter from Swann, setting up the middle rope 450 to finish Jake at 9:40.

Rating: C. The ending came a bit out of nowhere but Mack and Swann work very well together, meaning this was a pretty nice little match. Swann vs. Callihan could be interesting and the backstory being filled in will help them out a lot. What we got here was good though, which tends to be the case in openers on this show.

We recap the ending of last week's main event with Brian Cage allowing partner Johnny Impact to get speared down.

The Lucha Bros promise to win the titles.

Next week: Impact defends against Killer Kross, Moose and Brian Cage.

GWN Flashback Moment of the Week: LAX returns. This was during the time when Bruce Prichard and Dutch Mantell were around. Remember any of that? I'm not sure why you would, but you might for reasons of self induced pain.

Allie vs. Kiera Hogan

Allie is looking for Rosemary during her entrance. Su Yung and Jordynne Grace are here as well. Kiera goes straight at her in the corner with some running elbows and a clothesline gets two. A choke shove sends Kiera into the corner though and Allie gets two of her own off a sliding clothesline. The announcers ignore the match to talk about anything else in the coming weeks, even ignoring Kiera hitting a superkick for two.

Allie misses one of her own and Kiera hits something like an Edge 0

Matic. Su tries to throw in the bloody glove so Grace takes her out without much effort. With Kiera down, Allie thinks about the glove but realizes it would summon Rosemary, allowing Kiera to get up and hit the fisherman's neckbreaker for the pin at 5:22.

Rating: D. Hey look: Allie loses again, which really shouldn't be much of a surprise anymore. Like I said last week, if she and Su don't ever win anything, why is she someone that needs to be dealt with? Allie being scared of Rosemary is fine and the story hasn't gotten old and stale yet, but they need to find a better way to tell it pretty soon.

Johnny isn't happy with the announcement of the four way when Cage comes in to say he'll see him next week.

Rob Van Dam and Sabu will face the Lucha Bros at United We Stand (the Wrestlemania weekend show). That would have felt old ten years ago and now it's even worse.

Allie and Su go looking for Rosemary and a new message appears: "The witching is upon us. Don't say we didn't warn you."

Rohit Raju vs. Trey Miguel

Raju isn't happy with the rolling around to start and yells at the fans as Callis says Raju wants to be like Gama Singh but would be lucky to be like Sonjay Dutt. Trey's chinlock doesn't last long so he springboard dropkicks Raju outside instead. A suicide dive is countered though and a faceplant onto the apron has him in trouble. Raj Singh gets in some cheap shots from the floor and it's time to strike it off.

Raju actually gets the better of it with a shot to the knee and a right hand to the head for two. Trey is right back up with a double stomp to the back as this is getting more time than I was expecting. There's a 619 in the corner, followed by a jumping neckbreaker for two on Raju. Back up and a sitout gordbuster gets two on Trey and a sliding knee to the back of the head (ala Adam Cole) is good for the same. The other Rascalz superkick Raj, leaving Trey to hit another 619 into a Meteora for the pin at 8:28.

Rating: C+. I...liked this? I'm not sure how to handle a world where a match featuring someone from the Desi Hit Squad actually entertains me but that's what happened here. It's no masterpiece or anything but what we got was fun enough and kept me entertained. Just keep it to singles matches and things can be completely adequate.

We look at Team AAA before the World Cup match.

Scarlett Bordeaux makes her in-ring debut in Las Vegas.

Sami Callihan vs. Puma King

Puma has been entertaining in MLW. Sami jumps him from behind to start but King is right back up with a superkick and it's time to make some noise. There's a running flip dive to the floor as the fans seem rightfully impressed by King. They head outside with another kick to the face keeping Callihan in trouble. He's able to grab a tornado DDT on the floor though, leaving King outside for a near countout.

Back in and Callihan gets two off a Batista Bomb and it's time to start stomping on the ankle. Or maybe to tear at the mask, like a heel should do in this situation. Sami lets him up so it's the spit chop instead, with the announcers not exactly seeing the appeal. King gets tied in the Tree of Woe but manages to get his legs free for something like an ankle hurricanrana to escape. They both fall to the floor in a crash with Sami laughing (of course) as we take a break.

Back with Puma still in trouble and Sami showing some swagger for a change. King is fine enough to hit a spinebuster and an enziguri but can't follow up. A victory roll into an elbow (just an elbow) keeps Sami in trouble and something like a Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. Some strikes to the face and ribs rock Sami so he bounces off the rope for a hard clothesline. La majistral gives King two as Sami grabs the rope, which feels out of place in this match. Back up and King hits some superkicks but takes a shot to the ribs, setting up the Cactus Piledriver to give Sami the pin at 17:26.

Rating: C. Another back and forth match here, though as usual it didn't have much in the way of a flow to it as Sami was kind of going from spot

to spot. Normally that's not a great thing but it kind of fits with Sami, who is more about the violence and hurting people than getting a win. King continues to be fun and I could go on some more of him.

Video on Tessa Blanchard vs. Taya Valkyrie before their street fight next week. As usual, Tessa comes off like a complete star here, even if Gail Kim is going to get involved somehow.

Eli Drake runs into Eddie Edwards in the back and brags about getting the win last week in their tag match. Next week they're in the World Cup match but Eddie doesn't want to hear about it. He'll do his thing and Eli can do his, but Eli wants to see the old Eddie next week. Eddie doesn't seem to buy the idea.

Rundown of next week's big show.

Killer Kross and Moose are ready for next week's title match and seem ready to work together. Moose thinks they could be co-World Champions but Kross doesn't seem interested. This treated Moose like a bit of an idiot, which isn't the right fit for him.

Tag Team Titles: Lucha Bros vs. LAX

The Lucha Bros are challenging and get a big over the top entrance, which looks almost more like Chinese New Year than anything else. The Bros jump the gun again and it's an early Pentagon Driver attempt being broken up, followed by a double belly to back suplex from the champs. That's the first seventeen seconds so we're in for a fast one here. The assisted moonsault is broken up and Pentagon hits a Codebreaker on Ortiz to set up Fenix's top rope double stomp to the back.

Santana and Pentagon do the big staredown as the fans are WAY into this one, shocking no one at all. The other two get back into break things up and Fenix kicks Santana out to the floor. Ortiz and Fenix slug it out with chops going upside the others' heads until Santana comes in with a high crossbody. Fenix dropkicks both champs down and we take a break. Back with Fenix hitting Ortiz in the face to stun him on top as we're actually in a standard match for a change.

Ortiz gets a spinebuster on Fenix and it's off to Santana and Pentagon with more chops ensuing. The champs get the better of it this time as the announcers are doing a rather nice job of explaining how different these teams are with Konnan being a huge difference maker. A quick Pentagon Driver gets two on Santana as Konnan is starting to panic. The spike Fear Factor misses and rolling cutters take out both Bros at once.

A Codebreaker into a superkick into the double flip into a faceplant (how LAX retained at Homecoming) gets two on Fenix. There's the Street Sweeper to Fenix but Pentagon makes the save, setting up the spike Fear Factor on Santana. Fenix suicide dives Ortiz as Pentagon gets two, followed by a regular Fear Factor for the same. The Bros have had it and it's another spike Fear Factor with another dive to Ortiz to give us new champions at 14:11.

Rating: B+. I don't think it's as good as commentary was hyping it up to be but this was a very entertaining match with everyone just going insane, as they should have. I know the ending was a bit repetitive but there's something to be said about dropping someone on their head over and over until they just don't get up anymore. It's the same idea that Edge had at New Year's Resolution 2006 when he kept spearing Cena over and over until he won. Why go with something other than your biggest weapon if you have the chance?

Post match Konnan doesn't know what to do. LAX gets up and Konnan tells them to shake hands. They do, though a little shoving takes place before LAX gives the Bros the ring to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. I liked this show more than I was expecting to and it was a rather fun night. The main event was the feel good moment for the crowd and that's a great way to go. Next week's big show is already set up and we had a good night here as what might be the high point of the tapings. One really good main event is better than a lot of tapings get so I'll certainly call this one a success, even with a pretty lame Allie vs. Hogan match (though to be fair, that's more the story than the wrestling). Good stuff here.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the

paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Monday Night Raw – February 11, 2019: Identity Crisis



IMG Credit: WWE

Monday Night Raw

Date: February 11, 2019

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Renee Young

It's the go home Raw before Elimination Chamber and, thanks to some

announcements made earlier in the day, we now have some matches for Sunday from the red side. As for tonight, Becky Lynch has been invited to the show and Seth Rollins is ready to respond to Brock Lesnar after the beatdown from two weeks ago. Let's get to it.

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

HHH and Stephanie McMahon are in the ring to open the show with Stephanie talking about the "Elimination Chamber View" on Sunday before correcting herself. HOW DARE SHE GO OFF SCRIPT LIKE THAT!!!! So totally unprofessional. They run down the card with a focus on Ronda Rousey vs. Ruby Riott, leading into a recap of last week's issues with Becky Lynch. This brings out Becky to say it's nice to be here and nice to see both of them, especially since the swelling has gone down on Stephanie's face. Becky: "I'll hit you harder next time."

HHH apologizes for what he said on Smackdown and now Becky has seen her doctors, who have conferred with the WWE doctors. There is no tear and Becky will be fine with a few weeks of rest. Therefore the suspension is lifted and the Wrestlemania match is on. Actually hang on as Stephanie has one more thing Becky has to do. The match is on...but she has to apologize to the two of them first.

Becky doesn't get that because it was their idea to make her see a doctor in the first place. Stephanie: "Don't be stubborn." Becky: "SHUT YOUR FACE!" The McMahons have been screwing people over for decades and no one is stealing her opportunity. She'll fight Vince himself if she has to but she's not apologizing. Stephanie and Becky go face to face so HHH breaks it up and tells Becky that she has a choice. She can die on this hill and throw it all away or she can go to Wrestlemania. He wants an answer tonight.

Boss And Hug Connection vs. Nia Jax/Tamina vs. Liv Morgan/Sarah Logan

The team that takes the fall enters the Chamber first. During their entrances, Bayley and Sasha summarize their year and say nothing can break them no matter what. Nia and Tamina promise to win because they're Samoans. Since you don't want to be in first here, Sasha makes Morgan start with Nia and then bails to the floor before a tag. Logan tries to

headbutt Nia and just gets headbutted back down. No one can do anything with Nia so thankfully it's off to Tamina for a chinlock on Morgan. Nia comes back in so Liv kicks away at the knee but Bayley tags herself in.

The Squad beats Bayley and Sasha down as we take a break. Back with Banks down on the floor (again) as Bayley gets beaten down by the Samoan Slaughterhouse (yes the Samoan Slaughterhouse, which someone got paid to create). Sasha is taken out by medics as the beatdown continues without much effort. Bayley fights up and makes the tag off to Logan, who gets chinlocked as well.

The top rope splash misses though and it's back to Bayley to clean house. Why she doesn't just sit on the floor or walk out since there's no benefit to winning the match isn't clear, but my guess is general face nitwitedness. The running dropkick beneath the bottom rope hits Morgan and the top rope elbow gets two as Logan saves. There's the Bayley to Belly to Morgan but Tamina is back in with a superkick. Nia comes in with the Samoan drop to finish Bayley at 14:40.

Rating: D+. I've seen worse and while it's understandable that they can't have Banks in the ring, the inclusion of Nia and Tamina just sucks the life out of anything. They're going to get pushed because they're monsters and they'll tell you about how Samoan they are, which is the extent of anything they have going for them. Bayley and Banks as the first entrants can make for a heck of a run, though I can't imagine they actually win.

Elias is in the ring as Becky is contemplating things in the back. Balor comes up to her and talks about Bobby Lashley and Lio Rush (dude stop being selfish). He knows she'll do the right thing and take care of things. Becky: "You're still awesome."

Elias is ready to perform but we get a long video on Seth Rollins' rise back up the ranks to the main event of Wrestlemania.

Elias is ready to play one more time but here's Lucha House Party to cut him off. That's enough for Elias, who snaps about being disrespected and his album not being nominated for a Grammy. Kalisto tells him to chill, because they want to walk with Elias. It's finally time to sing the song,

which is about how terrible it is to be in Grand Rapids. Kalisto gets in some guitar playing of his own and does quite well, earning himself a guitar to the back. Elias bails before he gets beaten down as well. I've heard worse ideas for a short feud.

Bobby Lashley and Lio Rush come to the ring...and let's go to Sonya Deville and Mandy Rose talking about the Elimination Chamber. That was rather sudden, which seems to be a trend tonight.

Finn Balor vs. Drew McIntyre

Lashley and Rush are at ringside. An early Rush distraction lets McIntyre hammer away and the chinlock goes on in a hurry. Balor sends him into the corner but gets pulled out to the apron. A missed charge sends McIntyre hard into the post but it's Lashley grabbing the boot to break up a dive. One heck of a dropkick through the ropes drops Rush and it's a Sling Blade to McIntyre, drawing in Lashley for the DQ at 3:02.

Rating: D+. Not enough time to mean anything but it was an angle instead of a match anyway. They were smart to not have McIntyre take a fall here as there was no point to this being anything other than a DQ. It served a purpose and let us have an energetic burst, at least while it lasted before what is likely a tag match.

Post match the beatdown is on until Kurt Angle makes the save. Rush gets his ankle locked until Baron Corbin runs in to take Angle out. Braun Strowman makes the final save and Corbin actually stays to fight, with McIntyre saving him from the powerslam. You know what's next.

Baron Corbin/Lio Rush/Drew McIntyre vs. Kurt Angle/Finn Balor/Braun Strowman

Joined in progress with McIntyre in trouble until he drives Balor into the corner for some choking on the ropes. Balor fights over and brings in Angle without much trouble, meaning Kurt can clean some house. A middle rope missile dropkick (didn't look to make much contact but a camera cut makes the save) sets up the Angle Slam for two with Lashley making the save. Lashley plants Angle with a Downward Spiral and it's Corbin grabbing the chinlock.

Angle fights back until getting sent to the floor as we take a break. Back with Balor fighting back but having the Sling Blade countered into a chokebreaker for two. Lashley comes back in to stay on the ropes but a powerbomb is countered into a basement dropkick. McIntyre and Strowman knock each other down on the floor, leaving Balor to block the spear and dive on McIntyre in a quick switch. Back in and Balor knocks Rush down, allowing Lashley to crotch him on top.

The spinning Dominator gets the pin on Balor, despite the boot being on the rope. I'm not sure what the point of a screwy finish there would be but it might not have been intentional. Cue a second referee to say what happened and the match is CONTINUING after another break. Good grief this is as obvious of a case of a match being extended that I can remember seeing in a long time.

Back again with Balor in trouble as Strowman has been knocked over the barricade and Angle is down outside. Balor fights out of a chinlock and hits a double stomp to Lashley, which is enough to tag in Strowman for the real comeback. Strowman heads outside for the running shoulders around the ring, followed by the running powerslam to Lashley. Balor adds the Coup de Grace for the pin at 22:18.

Rating: D. This was far from the worst match I've ever seen or even a terrible one but it felt like it went on for hours. There are very few things more annoying than a match that keeps going because it needs to keep going, which is exactly what was happening here. It doesn't exactly help that this isn't the most thrilling set of feuds in the world. Balor vs. Lashley is fine, but it wasn't much more than that.

Kevin Owens is at a bowling alley and says he's been spending as much time as he can with his family during his time off. He and his son have been watching Raw and it's rather hard sometimes. It's either going to be Raw or Smackdown but he'll be back in about a month. Owens throws a gutter ball and seems rather ok with things.

Becky has no answer for what she's going to do.

Video on the March on Washington.

Nikki Cross vs. Ruby Riott

This could be interesting. Nikki tells her to come on and grabs a rather aggressive headlock. The sleeper goes on with Riott standing up to drive her into the corner. Riott uses the knees to drive Nikki face first into the buckle as we cut to (full screen of course) Ronda Rousey getting in Becky's face to say it's bigger than two of them. Becky needs to man up and apologize, even if she doesn't mean it.

Back to the match (because we can cut away from this but not Baron Corbin Chinlock Theater) with Nikki getting put down with an STO for two. Another STO on the apron is countered into a layout reverse DDT to put Riott on the floor. Ruby gets caught in the ring skirt for some forearms to the head but Riott kicks her off the top. The Riott Kick finishes Cross at 5:22.

Rating: C-. Completely unnecessary time away from the match aside (it came after a twenty two minute match and they take it away from a five minute match instead), this was entertaining while it lasted and Riott getting a win is fine. It's also ok with Cross losing as she isn't the kind of person who is going to be hurt by a loss due to her complete insanity.

Here's Rollins to talk about Wrestlemania but he'd rather talk about the last twelve months. He accomplished a lot and it all culminated at the Royal Rumble. Rollins was at the top of the world but the next night it was knocked down with six F5's. He's never felt pain like that but what matters is he's back up. Wrestlemania might be the last match of his career, but here's Paul Heyman to interrupt. After teasing Lesnar being here (with Rollins not buying it), Heyman says he's here to educate Seth.

For some reason Seth assumes that all men are created equal, but that's not true. Rollins' DNA does not match Lesnar's because Brock is a rage filled monster. We call this a suicide mission, but Rollins says he's fine with that. He's tired of Lesnar holding the Universal Title hostage and he'll do whatever it takes to prevent Lesnar from leaving Wrestlemania as champion. That's not a prediction, but rather a spoiler. Heyman leaves and here's Dean Ambrose....to tell Rollins to slay the beast.

Dean sits down in the timekeeper's area and Rollins leaves.

EC3 vs. Dean Ambrose

After the IIconics say winning the titles would be the perfect coronation for them, EC3 kicks and punches away to start, followed by a middle rope dropkick. A suplex sets up a nerve hold but EC3 can't hit the 1%er. Instead he goes shoulder first into the post and Dean makes the comeback with a Boss Man Slam getting two. So is Dean suddenly just a face again? He's certainly wrestling like one. EC3 crotches him on top but gets small packaged to give Dean a fast pin at 3:54.

Rating: D+. Uh....ok then. So Dean is leaving in less than two months and is now trading wins with the newcomer while suddenly turning face after months of being a heel? It makes as much sense as some of the things they're doing right now, but that's never stopped them before and it won't do it now.

Alexa Bliss tells Becky not to apologize, which Becky knows is just a way to get into the title shot at Wrestlemania. Bliss says do whatever you want, but an apology makes you the Irish girl who swallowed her pride and sold out. Becky: "If I apologize, the only thing I'll be selling out is Wrestlemania."

Tag Team Titles: Revival vs. Bobby Roode/Chad Gable

Roode and Gable are defending. Wilder slams his way out of an armbar to start and brings Dawson in. That means another armbar from Gable as everything breaks down. The champs are sent outside with Gable hitting a moonsault onto both of them as we take a break. Back with Roode fighting out of a chinlock and bringing Gable back in. Dawson takes him down with another chinlock and it's time to go after the arm.

A hard belly to back suplex sets up an assisted legdrop for two from Wilder. Another chinlock is broken up with another belly to back suplex but Roode gets pulled off the apron. Back from another break with Dawson getting catapulted into the corner, allowing the hot tag to Roode. House cleaning ensues with Roode bailing out on the Blockbuster but settling for a heck of a spinebuster for two on Wilder. Revival makes a blind tag

though and a Gory Special/bulldog combination gives Dawson two (cool move at least).

Gable comes back in with a high crossbody to Dawson, followed by a Blockbuster/German suplex combination (with Wilder landing on his head) for another near fall. Wilder gets Gable up for a powerbomb (after a sunset FLIP off the top) with Dawson adding the top rope clothesline but Roode dives in for the last second save. Roode sends the Revival into each other, leaving Dawson to catch him with a DDT. A quick jackknife rollup gives Gable two but it's a blind tag into the Shatter Machine to FINALLY make the Revival champions at 19:50.

Rating: B+. Well it took long enough and at least they won the belts in a very good match. I have no idea if this is going to put the Revival Might Leave rumors to bed but at least everything worked on the way there and we had an awesome match to finish things off. Roode and Gable never felt like anything more than transitional champions and there's nothing wrong with that. Revival is LONG overdue to win these things and I'm rather pleased with how we got here.

Post match, Revival heads to the back and says they've been telling everyone that they're the best and now they've proven it.

Here's Becky for the decision, because somehow the ending of the go home show for Elimination Chamber is about HHH and Stephanie getting an apology to set up a Wrestlemania match. The bosses come out as well and talk about how Becky needs to accept the consequences for her actions so she can go to Wrestlemania. The fans don't want Becky to do it so HHH tells her to ignore the fans and get Wrestlemania like she wants.

Becky quickly apologizes and walks away from a handshake, saying that now there is no one stopping her from her dream. HHH offers his congratulations, shakes Becky's hand and says she's going to Wrestlemania. Becky: "Wait that's it?" HHH: "You're going to Wrestlemania." HHH and Stephanie leave as Becky starts talking about Ronda, who comes out to hear it in person.

Before it can get physical, here's Vince McMahon to cut them off. He doesn't buy the apology so Becky is suspended for SIXTY DAYS, meaning

she's out of Wrestlemania and Charlotte is in instead. Vince raises Charlotte's arm and tells Rousey to get used to this scene, because it's how Wrestlemania will end. I don't think anyone really believes this is sticking, but it's a nice cliffhanger.

Overall Rating: C-. That's a crazy nice bump at the end as this was looking like a terrible show until the last thirty five minutes or so. The big thing continues to be WWE not knowing where to focus though, as we're dealing with Wrestlemania build while also setting up Elimination Chamber on Sunday. It's not going to get any better with Fastlane taking place in less than a month, and that's not a good idea with so much other stuff going on.

At some point they need to pick a focus and stick with it, because we're getting two half builds instead of one good one. That's fine when it's building to a big match, but I find it hard to care that much when the major Raw match on Sunday is for the inaugural Women's Tag Team Titles and the first champions might not even be on this show. The last fourth or so of this show is good, but the rest is about as skippable as you can ask for.

Results

Nia Jax/Tamina b. Boss and Hug Connects and Sarah Logan/Liv Morgan – Samoan drop to Bayley

Finn Balor b. Drew McIntyre via DQ when Bobby Lashley interfered

Finn Balor/Braun Strowman/Kurt Angle b. Drew McIntyre/Bobby Lashley/Baron Corbin – Coup de Grace to Lashley

Ruby Riott b. Nikki Cross – Riott Kick

Revival b. Chad Gable/Bobby Roode – Shatter Machine to Gable

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>