

# Daily News Update – December 4, 2023

Put Him In? Undertaker Pushes Former WWE Superstar For Hall Of Fame Induction.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/put-undertaker-pushes-former-wwe-superstar-hall-fame-induction/>

He'll Be Around: Randy Orton May Be In WWE A Lot Longer Than Expected.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hell-around-randy-orton-may-wwe-lot-longer-expected/>

Two Sport: WWE's Baron Corbin Wins Title In Entirely Different Sport.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/two-sport-wwes-baron-corbin-wins-title-entirely-different-sport/>

WATCH: Randy Orton Takes Logan Paul's US Title.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-randy-orton-takes-us-title-logan-paul-paul-gets-back/>

WATCH: Kevin Owens Gives Very Unique Reason For Not Challenging Roman Reigns Again.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-kevin-owens-gives-unique-reason-not-challenging-roman-reigns/>

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[\(featuring news stories written by ME\).](#)

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# Daily News Update – December 3, 2023

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[Impact Wrestling – November 30, 2023 \(IPWF Throwback Throwdown IV\)](#)

[Ring Of Honor – November 23, 2023](#)

[Ring Of Honor – November 30, 2023](#)

[Rampage – December 1, 2023](#)

[Collision – December 2, 2023](#)

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Long Road: Update On Future CM Punk vs. Roman Reigns Feud.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/long-road-update-future-cm-punk-vs-roman-reigns-feud/>

Banged Up: WWE Superstar Suffers Broken Hand During Recent Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/banged-wwe-superstar-suffers-broken-hand-recent-match/>

Get Well Soon: AEW Star Reportedly Out Of Action With Injury.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/get-well-soon-aew-star-r>

[eportedly-action-injury/](#)

Tell Us How You Feel: Drew McIntyre Shows Us Why He's Frustrated With WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/tell-us-feel-drew-mcintyre-shows-us-hes-frustrated-wwe/>

They Need A Minute: CM Punk vs. Steve Austin Feud Has (At Least) One Major Problem.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/need-minute-cm-punk-vs-steve-austin-feud-least-one-major-problem/>

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# Collision – December 2, 2023: That Thing They Do

## Collision

Date: December 2, 2023

Location: Erie Insurance Arena, Erie, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Nigel McGuinness, Kevin Kelly

We're back in the regular time slot this week with no major competition (at least from WWE) and that means the audience might be a bit stronger this time around. As was the case last week, the focus is going to be on the Continental Classic,

which has another three matches this time around. Let's get to it.

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

Brody King, Claudio Castagnoli, Andrade El Idolo (with CJ Perry), Daniel Garcia, Eddie Kingston and Bryan Danielson are ready to fight.

Opening sequence.

We recap the Continental Classic to this point.

Continental Classic Blue League: Claudio Castagnoli vs. Brody King

They strike it out to start with Castagnoli getting fired up by getting hit hard. Neither can clothesline the other down so they eventually clothesline each other down for a double breather. They head outside for another clothesline off before King drops him with a big boot back inside. Castagnoli knocks him outside, where King drops him with a clothesline and sends him over the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Castagnoli fighting out of a chinlock and unloading with uppercuts in the corner. A running double stomp gives Castagnoli two and a rather impressive Swiss Death gets the same. The Swing sets up the Sharpshooter but King makes the rope. Back up and Castagnoli misses a charge into the post, allowing King to nail a heck of a cannonball. Castagnoli pops up at one and hits a Death Valley Driver (or Canadian Destroyer according to Schiavone) for the same. King's piledriver gets two and a heck of a lariat finishes Castagnoli at 12:32.

**Rating:** B. This was your big men hitting each other really hard match and as you might have expected, it worked rather well. That's exactly what they were going for here and I'm more than a bit surprised at the result. If nothing else,

that's probably the biggest singles win of King's career and makes him a good bit more of a threat in the tournament. Nice job and a solid opener.

### Blue League Standings

Brody King – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Bryan Danielson – 0 points (5 matches remaining)

Andrade El Idolo – 0 points (5 matches remaining)

Daniel Garcia – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Eddie Kingston – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Jon Moxley talks about being banged up and thinking being in this tournament might not be the best idea. His head isn't on straight and he's all over the place, but he's sick and tired of being sick and tired. He's going to wrestle his way out of it though and win this tournament. No one in this tournament can put him through worse than what he goes through every day.

### Abadon vs. Kiera Hogan

Hogan looks scared to start but manages a dropkick into the corner. Abadon is back with some strikes in the corner but Hogan manages a running kick to the face for two. Back up and a swinging Boss Man Slam plants Hogan, followed by a springboard cutter for two more. A lick to the face seems to fire Hogan up so she strikes away, setting up a neckbreaker for two. Abadon is right back with a kick to the head, followed by Black Dahlia for the pin at 3:43.

**Rating:** C. I guess it's time to heat Abadon up again, which I'll take at a time other than Halloween for once. Abadon is a unique enough star that a push is worth a try, though it's hard to imagine this going very far. For now though, things are off to a good start, even if the follow up is what matters.

Post match the lights go out, Julia Hart pops up, and the lights go out again.

Samoa Joe is interrupted by Roderick Strong and the Kingdom. Strong is willing to forgive him for the near broken neck thing but Joe needs to understand that MJF is the Devil. Joe laughs them off and leaves.

### Continental Classic Blue League: Andrade El Idolo vs. Daniel Garcia

Matt Menard is on commentary. Garcia grabs a fast rollup for two and teases Andrade that he was so close. Back up and Garcia sends him into the ropes, where Andrade gets to chill for a bit. A dropkick puts Garcia on the floor and a slingshot dive gives Andrade two back inside. Garcia fights back by going after the leg for one, with Menard promising to dance with Garcia if he wins the tournament. Andrade knocks him hard to the floor though and we take a break.

Back with Garcia winning a slugout and tying Andrade in the Tree of Woe to hammer on the knee. A spinning brainbuster gives Garcia two but Andrade is fine enough to send him into the corner. The third Amigo is broken up though and Garcia grabs a sleeper. That's broken up with a trip into the corner and a superplex to Garcia, setting up Three Amigos for two. Garcia is right back with the Dragon Slayer but tries something else, allowing Andrade to roll into the hammerlock DDT to finish Garcia at 11:03.

**Rating:** B-. Another nice back and forth match here with Garcia seemingly fitting into his role as the whipping boy who tries really hard in every match. It makes sense for Andrade to go over here, especially with what seems to be a big showdown against Miro on the horizon. For now though, I'll settle for a pretty decent TV match.

### Blue League Standings

Brody King – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Andrade El Idolo – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Bryan Danielson – 0 points (5 matches remaining)

Eddie Kingston – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Daniel Garcia – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Respect is shown post match.

We look at the Dynamite Continental Classic matches.

We look at Wardlow smashing AR Fox.

Willie Mack isn't happy with Wardlow hurting his friend and wants some revenge next week.

### Kingdom vs. Iron Savages

Roderick Strong is here with the Kingdom and dedicates this match to his friend Adam Cole. The brawl is on fast until Boulder hits a crossbody to take the Kingdom down. Bronson dives onto the Kingdom as well, followed by a chokebomb for two on Taven. Boulder misses a middle rope moonsault though and it's a Death Valley Driver into Just The Tip. The spike piledriver finishes for Bennett at 2:31.

Post match Strong jumps out of the wheelchair for a jumping knee, seemingly breaking the chair in the process.

Ethan Page is back and wants to be the King Of Canada, so he wants Kenny Omega in Collision.

Video on Mercedes Martinez vs. Willow Nightingale, which took place last year at Supercard of Honor and flared up again on Rampage.

### Buddy Matthews/Malakai Black vs. Matt Sydal/Christopher Daniels

Matthews powers Sydal down to start before rolling through a high crossbody without much trouble. A tornado DDT doesn't work for Sydal so he kicks Matthews in the head and hands it off to Daniels. Black comes in and Daniels slows down a bit,

allowing Black to kick him into the corner. Daniels is sent outside and Black hits a heck of a middle rope moonsault as we take a break.

Back with Sydal coming in to strike away until Black catches him on top. Matthews and Sydal score with top rope Meteoras but Black pulls Sydal outside. Daniels dives onto Black but Black is fine enough to knee Sydal out of the air. The spinning kick to the head knocks Daniels silly for the pin at 8:39.

**Rating:** C+. Daniels and Sydal have been the team you put out there to make the other team look good since they got back together and they did it again here. This was far from some classic, but the House Of Black looked pretty strong in their win. They've been something of a focal point in recent weeks and I could go on more of them filling that role.

Post match here is FTR, with Black thinking they are here to join the House Of Black. The House has been there for FTR, which the fans seem to like. Then the House jumps FTR and the beatdown is on, with Harwood having to watch Wheeler get kicked in the head. Harwood gets kicked down as well, with FTR being reminded that they have no friends.

Earlier this week, Toni Storm is tired of her hair not being done. She's not a fan of Skye Blue, who can be the first challenger.

Post break, Blue calls Storm pathetic so they can fight soon.

Video on Christian Cage vs. Adam Copeland, with Cage accusing Copeland of grabbing his coat tails and always being better than Copeland could hope for. They fight on Dynamite.

### El Hijo del Vikingo vs. Kip Sabian

This (along with the previous match) is described as a standby match because the Continental Classic matches aren't reaching



their time limits. That's actually a nice bit of continuity so I'll take it. Sabian works on the arm to start and Vikingo actually can't roll his way to freedom. Vikingo slips out and hits a double springboard armdrag but Sabian kicks him out to the floor. There's Sabian's springboard moonsault to the outside as we take a break.

Back with Vikingo missing a running knee in the corner but managing a torture rack knee to the face. The middle rope Phoenix splash gives Vikingo two but Sabian is back with a springboard hurricanrana for two of his own. Sabian is knocked outside though and there's the corkscrew moonsault to drop him again. Now the 630 can finish for Vikingo at 8:08.

**Rating:** C+. Sabian was a lot more fired up here than usual and they had a pretty nice match. The problem is Viking continues to be put in and out of spots without getting to do much. That doesn't really work long term, though at least he's out there getting to showcase the incredibly athletic things that he can do.

Post match, Sabian turns down a handshake.

Keith Lee is asked about who "him" is but Shane Taylor interrupts. Taylor wants Lee at Final Battle and game on.

Miro tries to crush Andrade El Idolo but CJ Perry talks him out of doing it. He finally calms down and leaves.

Continental Classic Blue League: Bryan Danielson vs. Eddie Kingston

Danielson has an eye patch. Feeling out process to start, with Danielson striking away. Kingston backs away into the corner but manages one heck of a chop to drop Danielson. Back up and Danielson strikes away, with Kingston telling him to bring it. A suplex sends Kingston to the floor but he counters a dive into a suplex to leave them both down.

We take a break and come back with Kingston's superplex being broken up, allowing Danielson to hit a missile dropkick. Danielson eventually gets the LeBell Lock but can't get it all the way on. Instead they strike it out until Danielson misses the running knee and gets planted with a suplex. The spinning backfist gives Eddie two and some knees to the bad orbital bone make it worse.

Danielson is back with the YES Kicks but Kingston chops him very hard. Kingston shrugs them off and hits an enziguri until Danielson gets in a suplex for the double knockdown. Danielson kicks away some more at the five minute call. A suplex puts Kingston down and Danielson stomps away until Kingston needs a breather from the exhausted Bryan. Not that it matters as Bryan is back up with the running knee for the pin at 13:32.

**Rating:** B. This was the hard hitting strike off that you would have expected here and it's good to see Danielson getting on the board. What isn't so good to see is Kingston losing again, as it doesn't bode well for his future. At the same time, it doesn't exactly make the two titles he gave up look valuable when he has lost his first two matches clean. Good main event though, as more Danielson is a wise idea.

#### Blue League Standings

Brody King – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Andrade El Idolo – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Bryan Danielson – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Eddie Kingston – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Daniel Garcia – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

**Overall Rating:** B. This was the show where they were focusing on the in-ring aspect almost entirely. That made for a good night with some solid back and forth action as the Continental Classic rolls on. The most important thing here though was the show felt like it mattered, which can be an issue for some AEW offerings. It wasn't the case here though and AEW wraps up its

week rather nicely.

### Results

Brody King b. Claudio Castagnoli – Lariat

Abadon b. Kiera Hogan – Black Dahlia

Andrade El Idolo b. Daniel Garcia – Hammerlock DDT

Kingdom b. Iron Savages – Spike piledriver to Bronson

Buddy Matthews/Malakai Black b. Matt Sydal/Christopher Daniels  
– Spinning kick to Daniels' head

El Hijo del Vikingo b. Kip Sabian – 630

Bryan Danielson b. Eddie Kingston – Running knee

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# **Rampage – December 1, 2023: A Show Because They Had To**

## **Rampage**

Date: December 1, 2023

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Excalibur

We're back to the normal time slot this week and that probably won't make much of a difference here. What matters here is having something interesting, as the show has a tendency to be an odd collection of matches rather than anything big. Maybe they can change it here though so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Matt Menard/Angelo Parker/Dark Order vs. Danhausen/Trent Beretta/Orange Cassidy/Hook

The villains start fast and the brawl heads outside. Back in and Danhausen snaps off a hurricanrana to Uno before all eight get inside for a big brawl. The good guys clear the ring and of course we get the big hug. Back in and Parker sets up Menard's running knee to Cassidy's head. Danhausen comes in for a release German suplex to Uno, followed by Hook's series of suplexes.

Cue Wheeler Yuta to join commentary, with the distraction letting Hook get jumped from behind. We settle down to Reynolds stomping on Hook and getting to pose a bit as we take a break. Back with Trent getting the tag to clean house in a hurry. Cassidy comes back in to kick away, at least until Uno plants him with a piledriver. We get a staredown between Danhausen and Garcia, meaning curse vs. dancing. Danhausen pulls out Jake Hager's hat though and the distraction lets Hook Redrum Parker. That distraction is enough of a distraction that Danhausen can roll Menard up for the pin at 10:11.

**Rating:** C+. Not much of a match, but the whole point of this was just to have a good time. Danhausen is the definition of goofy fun and we even moved Cassidy vs. Hook forward a little

bit more. It's not a great match or even very good, but they started the show fast and that is nice to see.

Ruby Soho (not looking happy), Saraya and Anna Jay are teaming up tonight, with Saraya praising Anna for being beautiful. For now though, they need to deal with Ruby Soho's thing about Angelo Parker...who shows up. Saraya breaks up the whole meeting.

Here is Tony Schiavone to introduce two men who were in the main event of the very first wrestling match (yes match rather than show) on TNT. If by that you mean the second of three matches that night then yeah sure. In case that's not enough, Schiavone says that the very last match on TNT was Sting vs. Ric Flair. Well, if you ignore every AEW match to air on there, sure.

Anyway, here are Sting and Ric Flair for a chat. Sting talks about being in the first and last match on TNT (apparently Sting is rather dense too) before mentioning Lex Luger and Bam Bam Bigelow. Flair talks about being in wrestling since 1972 and there are always some people who will be special in his life: Dusty Rhodes, Ricky Steamboat and Sting.

Flair promises to be there with Sting from the beginning until the end and (after a pretty clear camera cut, possibly due to some questionable comments being edited out) says they'll dance all night and a little longer. This was the latest edition of "Ric Flair and Sting are so awesome that we have no concept of history" theater.

Kris Statlander, Hikaru Shida and Skye Blue are ready to get their momentum back starting tonight. Statlander seems to blame Blue for losing the TBS Title but Blue isn't having that. Shida tells them to calm down and focus.

Don Callis Family vs. Jah-C/???/???

Jah slugs away at Hobbs to no avail and it's a triple

finisher, with Hobbs hitting the World's Strongest Slam for the pin at 1:00.

Post match, Don Callis praises his team's dominance and wants the Golden Jets.

Prince Nana wants the Workhorsesmen to join the Mogul Embassy for tonight. Brian Cage isn't sure.

### Anna Jay/Ruby Soho/Saraya vs. Skye Blue/Kris Statlander/Hikaru Shida

Statlander and Jay start things off but it's quickly off to Shida for a running elbow. Blue comes in for a shot of her own but Statlander tags herself in, meaning it's time to argue. Shida finally tags herself in to beat up Saraya and Soho in back to back shots. We take a break and come back with Statlander planting Saraya. Jay makes a save and gets the tag to choke Statlander. With that broken up, Statlander pulls Jay into the path of Soho's superkick, allowing Blue to grab Code Blue for the pin at 7:21.

**Rating:** C. It's another women's match where so much of the match was stuck in the break that there wasn't much to be seen otherwise. They're playing up the issues between Saraya and Soho, along with Statlander and Blue, which should make for something going forward. As usual, Blue gets a win, though she still needs to win a championship at some point for it to really matter.

We look at the Continental Classic matches from Dynamite and preview the matches on Collision.

### Brian Cage/Workhorsesmen vs. Penta El Zero Miedo/Komander/El Hijo del Vikingo

Komander tries to flip over Cage to start but gets tossed into the corner for his efforts. Commentary ignores this match for the rapid fire preview for Collision and more, because the

main event doesn't matter to AEW either. Vikingo comes in and chops away at Drake, who suplexes Vikingo down to even things up. Everything breaks down and the luchadors clean house, setting up the triple dives.

We take a break and come back with Penta cleaning house, including a double DDT. Komander missile dropkicks Drake, setting up a running corner dropkick. A backstabber into a double stomp into a top rope double stomp gets two on Cage but he's right back up. Komander is monkey flipped into Drake's powerbomb as everything breaks down. Vikingo hits a springboard Canadian Destroyer but gets piledriven by Henry. Made In Japan drops Henry, who is right back up to nail Cage by mistake. Cage drops Henry and walks out, leaving Vikingo to hit a 630 for the pin on Henry at 11:12.

**Rating:** C+. The match had all of the usual insane athleticism and fun stuff, but it's the same thing that has been a problem for Rampage for most of the last few months: how is this supposed to feel like a main event? This could have been on any given Ring Of Honor in the middle of the show but it's the featured match here. The time slot doesn't help things, but man this felt like a nothing way to wrap up the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. I'm not sure what to think here, as stuff did happen and some stories were moved forward, but it felt like a beefed up edition of Dark. Who was the biggest star on this show other than Cassidy? Statlander maybe? Saraya? The action was good enough, but it was a bunch of multi-person tags and the latest chance for Flair and Sting to reminisce about one or two matches. The show wasn't bad, but it's definitely not worth the time to watch.

### Results

Danhausen/Trent Beretta/Orange Cassidy/Hook b. Matt Menard/Angelo Parker/Dark Order – Rollup to Menard  
Don Callis Family b. Jah-C/???/??? – World's Strongest Slam to Jah-C

Skye Blue/Kris Statlander/Hikaru Shida b. Anna Jay/Ruby Soho/Saraya – Code Blue to Soho  
El Hijo del Vikingo/Penta El Zero Miedo/Komander b. Brian Cage/Workhorsemen – 630 to Henry

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# Ring Of Honor – November 30, 2023: Everything I Don't Like About This Show

## Ring Of Honor

Date: November 30, 2023

Location: Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

So how do you follow up on Ronda Rousey making a surprise appearance last week and having a pretty solid match? There's



a good chance you don't, as Rousey's appearance seems to be a one off. In a way that might be a good thing though, as we have three shows left before Final Battle, meaning it's probably time to mostly burn off a show before we get most of the card announced with about ten days before the pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Athena yells at Billie Starkz for last week's loss but this week, she can make it up against Marina Shafir. With Starkz gone, Athena yells at Eddie Kingston, saying you can't backfist her to the future because her back is heavy from carrying this place. Lexi Nair as a not great hype woman for Athena is great.

Opening sequence.

Eddie Kingston vs. Lee Johnson

Non-title Proving Ground match, meaning if Johnson wins or survives the ten minute time limit, he gets a shot...at the North American Triple Crown. Well that closes a bit of a loophole. Feeling out process to start as the fans are behind Kingston. Johnson has to flip out of a wristlock to give us a standoff. Kingston snaps off a belly to belly for two and another suplex gets another two.

A DDT gives Johnson a breather but Kingston elbows his way out of a suplex attempt. Kingston's t-bone suplex gets two more, only to have Johnson come back with a neckbreaker. The frog splash gives Johnson two of his own and that's enough for Kingston, who snaps off a half dragon suplex. The backfist finishes Johnson at 6:30.

**Rating:** C. What matters most here is Kingston actually wrestling on this show on something of a regular basis. The show felt like nothing with the champions mostly missing so it's very nice to have the top star around. That being said,

it's not quite as good with the title basically held in limbo until the end of the Continental Classic, but I can't imagine ROH was high on the list of priorities when the tournament was announced.

### The Boys vs. The Infantry

Bravo and Brent fight over wrist control to start until Brent snaps off some armdrags into an armbar. The Boys pick up the pace with a enziguri into a Backstabber for two. Bravo manages a block though and it's Dean coming in to...well actually get armdragged a few times as well. An atomic drop gives Brandon two as everything breaks down. We settle down to Brandon getting stomped down in the corner until a roll over allows Brent to come back in. That doesn't last long though as Boot Camp finishes Brent at 5:49.

**Rating:** C+. It was a fast paced match, though I couldn't help but chuckle at commentary trying to say this might play into the Tag Team Title picture. They're right in that it could, though there is no reason to believe that it will for a good while. The lack of having the titles around makes these tag matches feel a lot less important and that's never a good sign.

Rachael Ellering says Leyla Hirsch's knee is healing...and here is Maria Kanellis-Bennett to interrupt. Maria says Leyla is in good spirits but Ellering wants to know why Maria was talking to the Renegades last week. Leyla comes in to ask if one of them will have her back this week. Maria and Ellering: "Yes."

### Emi Sakura vs. Trish Adora

A collision goes nowhere to start so they try it again, with Adora knocking her down. Sakura is right back with a drop toehold into the ropes though and some chops have Adora's eyes bugging out. The surfboard has Adora in more trouble but she's right back up with a Bully Bomb. They chop it out again until Adora boots her in the ace for two. The Lariat Tubman connects

but Sakura rolls to the ropes in a smart move. Sakura's elbow to the face gives her two of her own and the butterfly backbreaker finishes Adora at 4:32.

**Rating:** C+. It was a hard hitting match and that's the best thing you can ask for from this kind of a match. Neither of them have much going at the moment and that doesn't give them a ton to work with in the match. The good thing is that both of them got in enough to look strong and it was a nice match as a result.

### Leyla Hirsch vs. Heather Reckless

Maria Kanellis-Bennett and Rachael Ellering are here with Hirsch. Reckless is actually shorter than Hirsch and commentary says that isn't something you see very often. Hirsch powers her down to start without much effort and a backbreaker puts Reckless down again. A suplex into a release suplex sets up the cross armbreaker to finish Reckless at 2:08. Total squash.

Post match Hirsch leaves on her own, as commentary pushes the idea of her needing to choose a side. Well at least that's something.

### Willie Mack vs. Robert Anthony

Mack snaps off some armdrags to start but Anthony elbows him in the face to take over. Some elbows have Mack down again but Mack is right back with a swinging slam. A sitout powerbomb finishes Anthony off at 3:10.

**Rating:** C. Not much to this one but it's nice to see Mack getting a win for a change. He's been beaten so many times in recent months that he needs a win like this to rebound a bit. Mack is more or less a glorified jobber to the stars around here but that might be his ceiling unless he is given the chance to do something else. This won't be the big change, though it's better than another loss.

## Billie Starkz vs. Marina Shafir

Shafir shoves her out to the floor to start, leaving Starkz to do some jumping jacks. Back in and Shafir hits some knees to the ribs, only to get shoved outside instead. This time Starkz rips at Shafir's face and snaps off a suplex to keep Shafir in trouble. The Swanton is broken up so Starkz kicks her in the head and grabs a German suplex for two. A hard forearm knocks Shafir silly but she's back with a kick to the head for two of her own. Shafir ties her up in a nasty arm/leg twist until Starkz kicks her way to freedom. The Swanton only hits raised knees and Shafir plants her for two more. Starkz manages to come back with Gory Bomb and the Swanton connects for another near fall. Starkz' End (arm trap faceplant) finishes Shafir at 8:13.

**Rating:** B-. They had a good fight here and it's nice to see Starkz getting one of the biggest singles wins of her career. It still seems like she is perfect for the title shot at Final Battle but for some reason we haven't gotten there yet. For now though, it's nice to see her get a win, though it needs to lead somewhere.

Post match Starkz attacks her again so here are Athena and Lexi Nair, the latter in a graduation cap and gown, for their Minion In Training graduation ceremony. Athena introduces the valedictorian, who sucked when Athena met her but got better: Lexi Nair! She gets a Minion shirt and is now known as Minion: Bestie! Commentary mocks the two of them for their attire (Nair in red and Starkz in yellow, meaning we get ketchup and mustard chants) as Nair is rather pleased, while Starkz is wished the best in her future endeavors.

Starkz yells at Athena, who tells her to back down. Athena gets her way again...but then Starkz decks her and grabs the title. I'm not sure if "I turned you evil, but you're not evil enough" is an all time face turn but it seems we're FINALLY getting to the match that has been building for months.

## Survival Of The Fittest Qualifying Match: Evil Uno vs. Dalton Castle

The Boys are here too. Feeling out process to start with Castle chopping away but getting sent to the floor. That means a fanning off, followed by Uno offering him some free chops. Instead Castle drops him with a running clothesline, followed by a standing splash to send Uno outside. Back in and Uno scores with a backbreaker and, after blocking a Bang A Rang, send Castle outside for a change. This time Uno decks the Boys, which is enough of a distraction for Castle to hit a suplex. The reverse Sling Blade sets up the Bang A Rang to finish Uno at 7:27.

**Rating:** C. While I wasn't going to buy Uno as a serious threat to beat Uno, this could have been a lot worse. Uno made Castle work for the win, which sends him on to the match that he should absolutely be in. Castle should be a favorite to win the title as he has been building to it for months. Nice enough match, even with a not so shocking ending.

Tony Khan congratulates Lexi Nair on her graduation when Billie Starkz comes in. Starkz wants a shot at Athena so she is given the Final Battle shot. So what was Khan there to announce?

## Brandon Cutler/Colt Cabana vs. GPA/Trevor Outlaw

Cabana and GPA grapple around to start until Cutler comes in for a double hiptoss. Cutler's neckbreaker drops GPA again but he's back with a jawbreaker to put Cutler down for a change. The villains take over on Cutler in the corner but he kicks his way to freedom. Cabana comes in to clean house and it's a side slam/STO combination to finish GPA at 4:31.

**Rating:** C. I'm assuming that this was the match designed to warm up the crowd, because AEW fans are well known for being quiet and uninterested until someone steps in to wake them up. Cabana and Cutler aren't likely to be much more than a low

level team, if they are anything at that, but at least it wasn't anything taking up much time here.

### Survival Of The Fittest Qualifying Match: Komander vs. Gringo Loco

Loco flips away from him to start and gets taken down by the arm for his efforts. Komander sends him outside, where Loco chops away at him and gets in a posting for two back inside. Loco misses a dropkick though and gets catapulted to the floor, setting up the big flip dive. Back in and a springboard 450 gives Komander two, followed by a hurricanrana driver for the same.

They go to the apron, where Komander's hurricanrana is countered into a hard powerbomb. Back in and they go to the top, with something like an inverted super Spanish Fly planting Komander hard. Loco misses a springboard moonsault though and gets kicked in the head. A backbreaker into Cielito Lindo sends Komander to Final Battle at 11:03.

**Rating:** B-. You know all the times where some of the luchadors have gone out there and had an entertaining match for a little while? Well this is the most recent edition, though at least there was something on the line for a change. Komander being in a multi-person match is no surprise, though at least Loco got a chance to shine again as well.

Respect is shown post match.

Tony Nese and Mark Sterling demand that Jerry Lynn (hey he still works here) let Sterling be at ringside for Nese vs. Ethan Page. Works for Lynn, though Sterling will be handcuffed to the post.

### La Faccion Ingovernable vs. Spanish Announce Project

Dralistico and Preston Vance for the Faccion. Dralistico and Serpentico start things off with an exchange of chops. Stereo

flip ups to their feet mean it's off to Vance vs. Angelico for a change. Serpentico comes in to stomp on the arm but Vance fights up without much trouble. It's back to Dralastico to go after Serpentico's arm, followed by an exchange of Canadian Destroyers. Angelico comes back in to kick Vance in the head but the leglock is broken up. Dralastico makes the save and hits a springboard Codebreaker into Vance's discus lariat for the pin at 8:04.

**Rating:** C. This was the most nothing match I can remember in a very long time. It was a pair of low level teams having a completely average match that won't change much of anything they're doing going forward. This is a show that could have been dropped from a show that is running about two hours and fifteen minutes without missing much and that's not a good sign. Also, it's nice to see Angelico right back where he was a month and a half ago after building him into something a bit more interesting.

#### Nyla Rose vs. Zoey Lynn

Lynn tries to jump her to start and gets taken into the corner for her efforts. A running elbow knocks Lynn silly but she manages to strike away. Rose doesn't mind and knocks her out of the air, setting up a chokeslam and the Beast Bomb for the pin at 3:03.

**Rating:** C. This was Rose's Ring Of Honor debut and she did what she has done several times in AEW. It was a total squash and did just fine, but it's a match that could have been postponed to next week and taken away from an already long show. Rose in Ring Of Honor is better than no Rose at all, but dang this show is getting longer and longer and that isn't helping things.

#### Iron Savages vs. Butcher and the Blade

Bronson wants Butcher and is driven into the corner for his efforts. A running shoulder works a bit better for Bronson so

it's off to Blade, who is sent face first into Boulder's chest. Boulder comes in and muscles Blade up for a suplex. A discussion of Savage Sauce takes too long though and it's Bronson getting caught in the corner for a change. Everything breaks down and Butcher hammers away on Boulder, who is back with a kick to the face. A splash gives Boulder two but the electric chair splash is broken up. The powerbomb/neckbreaker combination finishes Bronson at 6:37.

**Rating:** C+. It was a nice power match and it's good to see Butcher and the Blade get a win for once. Much like Rose, if they aren't doing anything in AEW, put them in ROH and see if they can do anything here. The Savages continue to be a fun team who never win much of anything and their value is only going to last so long.

#### Brian Cage vs. Action Andretti

Prince Nana is here with Cage. Andretti tries to pick up the pace to start but can't get very far with a tornado DDT attempt. Instead Andretti kicks him in the face, only to get sent hard to the floor. Back in and we hit the chinlock, followed by a quick belly to belly. Andretti fights up and strikes away, setting up a springboard clothesline.

Cage grabs a reverse suplex faceplant (that's a new one) and the apron superplex gets two. Andretti is right back with the tornado DDT but has to fight out o Weapon X. The torture rack neckbreaker drops Cage and the standing shooting star press gets two more. Nana offers a distraction though and a powerbomb into Weapon X finishes Andretti at 10:21.

**Rating:** C+. Power vs. speed worked as usual here, which is something that Ring Of Honor certainly seems to understand. Cage is the bigger star, though I'm still not quite sure what the point is in having he and the Gates of Agony win the Six Man Tag Team Titles when the Gates were on their way to Japan for the World Tag League. Not much of a main event here, but



it could have been worse.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This is a show where the problems are entirely in the presentation and not in the wrestling. The matches themselves ranged from good to decent, but there were thirteen matches on this show and three of them felt like they had any kind of impact. Other than that, it was a bunch of stuff that was put on the card seemingly or no other reason than to extend the show. It wasn't a fun show to watch and most of it feels like it could have been heavily trimmed down or cut entirely. Rather bad presentation and a waste of some good action.

### Results

Eddie Kingston b. Lee Johnson – Spinning backfist

The Infantry b. The Boys – Boot Camp to Brent

Emi Sakura b. Trish Adora – Butterfly backbreaker

Leyla Hirsch b. Heather Reckless – Cross armbreaker

Willie Mack b. Robert Anthony – Sitout powerbomb

Billie Starkz b. Marina Shafir – Starkz' End

Dalton Castle b. Evil Uno – Bang A Rang

Brandon Cutler/Colt Cabana b. GPA/Trevor Outlaw – Side slam/STO combination to GPA

Komander b. Gringo Loco – Cielito Lindo

La Faccion Ingovernable b. Spanish Announce Project – Discus lariat to Serpentico

Nyla Rose b. Zoey Lynn – Beast Bomb

Butcher and the Blade b. Iron Savages – Powerbomb/neckbreaker combination to Bronson

Brian Cage b. Action Andretti – Weapon X

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# Ring Of Honor – November 23, 2023: There She Is

## Ring Of Honor

Date: November 23, 2023

Location: Toyota Arena, Ontario, California

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's a special show this week as we have one heck of a major match announced for the show. Granted the match has no build and was only announced on Instragram rather than on a previous show or AEW TV. As a bonus, we're also getting a Pure Rules Title match from Katsuyori Shibata. Let's get to it.

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

Athena and Billie Starkz issue an open challenge to any team who wants to face them. They leave, with Marina Shafir coming in and making a phone call.

Opening sequence.

Commentary wonders who Shafir could have been calling...and then give us a rundown of the show, revealing that Ronda Rousey will be teaming with Shafir.

## Pure Rules Title: Katsuyori Shibata vs. Trent Beretta

Shibata is defending. Trent actually takes him down for an early one. They fight over a headlock takeover and headscissors escape until the PK misses for Beretta. An armbar sends Beretta over to the ropes for the first break but Shibata goes right back to the arm. Shibata kicks him to the apron, only to have Beretta hit a slingshot spear for two.

A tornado DDT gets the same so Shibata sits down, allowing Beretta to chop away. Beretta knocks him outside for the slingshot dive but Shibata is back in with a running corner dropkick. An ankle lock goes on so Beretta has to use his second rope break. An STO gives Shibata two, followed by the PK to retain the title at 8:26.

**Rating:** C+. This was every Shibata title defense: it had no build, it just came and went without much of note and Shibata won with the PK. The Pure Rules Title isn't exactly interesting and it keeps going without much of note. I could go with seeing it dropped to get rid of a title, as it feels like nothing more than a way to give Shibata something to do. At least give us an actual feud with an interesting challenger. It shouldn't be that hard.

## Diamante vs. Trish Adora vs. Kiera Hogan vs. Willow Nightingale

Nightingale clears house to start but gets knocked outside for a dive from Hogan. Back in and Hogan strikes away at Diamante before heading up top. That means a Tower Of Doom to leave everyone down, followed by Diamante getting triple teamed. Nightingale hits a Death Valley Driver but gets superkicked by Hogan for two. Adora kicks Hogan in the face but walks into the Babe With The Powerbomb for the pin at 4:57.

**Rating:** C. This is Nightingale in a nutshell: she wins the matches that don't matter and makes the fans care about her all over again, only to likely lose the important matches.

There is only so much you can get out of a four way that doesn't last five minutes and that was rather clear here, with no one having the chance to showcase themselves before they had to wrap it up.

We look at Ronda Rousey and Marina Shafir beating Athena and Billie Starkz via DQ at a Pro Wrestling Revolver event a few days ago.

### Tony Nese vs. Ethan Page

Mark Sterling is here with Nese and GROUP TRAINING IS CANCELED until this is settled. We get a pose off to start until Nese pounds him down into the corner. Page is back up to unload with shots to the head but gets taken outside for a whip into the steps. A spinning kick to the head gives Nese two and he grabs a bodyscissors. Page fights up and strikes away in the corner, setting up the springboard cutter for two. Sterling offers a distraction and gets ejected, leaving Page to boot Nese in the face for the pin at 6:13.

**Rating:** C+. It's good for Page to win, but you can almost guarantee that this isn't over yet. For some reason Page can't just get the big win and be done with the whole thing but at least he didn't lose again. Page had a bunch of momentum on the way into this feud and now he's having to make it up, which can only be done so well with an act like Sterling and Nese.

Post match the brawl stays on with security breaking it up.

We look at the ROH World and Tag Team Title matches from the Full Gear Zero Hour show. Like those things would ever happen around here.

### Workhorsesmen vs. The Infantry vs. Iron Savages vs. West Coast Wrecking Crew

The Crew is Royce Isaac/Jorel Nelson and they don't get an

entrance. Drake lets Bravo chop him to start before taking over with chops of his own. Bronson comes in and gets taken down by the Infantry but one heck of a flapjack puts Dean down. It's off to Isaacs for a forearm off with Bronson, leaving the Crew to take over on Bravo.

Everything breaks down and the infantry hit stereo dives to a bunch of people on the floor. Bronson hits his own dive before catching a diving Drake. Isaacs German suplexes both of them at once, leaving the Crew to beat up Dean with a Death valley Driver onto raised knees. Drake dives onto the Savages, setting up an assisted Downward Spiral to finish Nelson at 6:35.

**Rating:** C+. Another four way that didn't get much time, especially with the amount of people involved. It was impossible for any of them to really stand out here and that was always going to be the problem. The Workhorsesmen are only so interesting in the first place, though they do feel bigger than any of the other teams.

Mark Sterling and Tony Nese rant about the Ethan Page match, which will be stricken from the record. This is NOT over.

### Lee Moriarty vs. Wheeler Yuta

Pure Rules. They start with the slow grappling and fight over a test of strength on the mat. Moriarty pops the elbow out and strikes away, with Yuta's chops not having much effect. Yuta can't get an Octopus hold so he goes with a sunset flip for two instead. A frog splash gives Yuta two and he fires off the elbows to the head.

Moriarty's Border City Stretch is broken up so Moriarty catches him on top for a top rope superplex. They trade right hands for a warning each until Yuta snaps off a German suplex. Moriarty goes back to the arm until Yuta bites his hand. The elbows to the head set up the mouse trap to finish Moriarty at 8:34.

**Rating:** C+. Pretty much just a regular match here with some rope breaks being counted. Yuta is all but guaranteed to get the Pure Rules Title match at Final Battle, which isn't exactly interesting. Then again the Pure Rules division isn't interesting either, mainly because there is little resembling a division. Unless you could Josh Woods that is, but Ring Of Honor doesn't seem to count him either.

#### Lee Johnson vs. Fred Rosser vs. Jack Cartwheel vs. Willie Mack

Rosser wants them to bring it before Mack clears the ring. Cartwheel is back in with a headscissors into the big running flip dive to the floor. Back in and Rosser belly to bellys Cartwheel, setting up the showdown with Mack. Rosser gets dropped but Cartwheel and Johnson are back in to take Mack down. Now it's Rosser back in to take over but Mack is there again. A Sky High hits Cartwheel, leaving Johnson to roll Rosser up for the pin at 5:13.

**Rating:** C+. Remember what I said about the previous two four ways that didn't get much time and left everyone scrambling to get in everything they could? Well this is the latest edition as they did all of those things again. There's nothing to the match, though Johnson seems to be getting a nice little push in recent weeks. Just do something with him already.

Respect is shown post match.

Ethan Page wants to know why Mark Sterling and Tony Nese get to decided this isn't over. Everyone saw him shake Nese's hand after Nese cheated to beat him but then he had to say they weren't done. Page is the one who says we're not done and Nese will shake his hand.

#### Athena/Billie Starkz vs. Ronda Rousey/Marina Shafir

Athena is more than shaken up as Rousey starts with Starkz. Rousey takes her down without much trouble so it's off to Athena...who immediately bails out. Another suplex drops Starkz

again and Shafir comes in. Athena gets in a cheap shot from the apron to cut Starkz down and now Athena will come in for a knee to the face.

A spear gives Athena two as we hear about her and Rousey being partners in WWE (mainly on house shows but true). Shafir suplexes her way out of trouble and it's back to Rousey to clean house. A knee to the head puts Athena on the ropes for some choking but Starkz tags herself back in. They all head outside where Athena throws back of them down at once. Back in and Rousey armbars Athena until Starkz makes the save with a Swanton.

Everyone is down until Rousey armbars Athena again. This time a bite into an electric chair gets Athena out of trouble, allowing the tag back to Starkz. Rousey breaks up some kind of top rope dive and slams Starkz onto Athena. Rousey's knee gets two on Athena but she's back up with the big forearm. A Gory Special/middle rope Codebreaker combination gets two on Shafir, who kicks her way to freedom. Rousey comes back in for a quickly broken ankle lock, leaving Athena to hit the O Face. Starkz is legal though and tries a Swanton, only to land in Rousey's armband for the tap at 16:02.

**Rating:** B. Easily the best thing on the show/in Ring Of Honor over the last several weeks and that shouldn't be a shock. Rousey is rather good when she is motivated and that was the case again here. I could see her getting the title shot at Final Battle, which might come after a hard left turn but if you can get Rousey on the show, you forget about the title picture and go with her. Other than that, this was a heck of a showcase for everyone else, as Athena has a real challenger and the other two looked solid in their big chance.

Post match Rousey grabs the title and taunts Athena a bit to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. And that is Ring Of Honor in a nutshell.

They had what could have been a heck of a card with the title match, Page vs. Sterling in a grudge match and a big main event (plus maybe a shortened version of Yuta's match) but that's not what we got. Instead they added in three other matches featuring SIXTEEN other wrestlers over about sixteen minutes of ring time. Cut out one or two of those four ways (or all three) and this is a heck of a show. As it is, all we got was another long show that left them trying to get through the extra stuff until we could see the important/interesting stuff. Figure that out already.

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**Impact Wrestling – November  
30, 2023 (IPWF Throwback  
Throwdown IV): Hilarity**



# Ensues

## Impact Wrestling

Date: November 30, 2023

Location: Battle Arts Academy, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Giuseppe Scovelli Jr., Profession Ignatius Quigley

It's another special show, but this time it's like almost nothing else Impact does. This is an IPWF (Impact Provincial Wrestling Federation) show (Throwback Throwdown IV for you historians out there), meaning it's a parody of 80s show with Impact regulars in very over the top characters. There is actually a bit of continuity over the different shows, which should make for a lot of fun. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Commentary (Josh Matthews and I think Alex Shelley) welcome us to the show and run down the card. These gimmicks alone are making me chuckle.

The ring announcer runs down the staff, including the commissioner, timekeeper and referee.

## Kamikazi vs. Rapid Delivery Pete

That would be a ninja (Mike Bailey) vs. a pizza delivery boy (Rich Swann). Kamikazi scares Pete with some kicks as commentary talks about the merits of wrestling barefoot. Kamikazi strikes him down but Pete grabs an armdrag into an armbar. Back up and another armdrag into the armbar has the fans saying they want pizza. A neck snap across the top gives Kamikazi a breather and he drops Pete again. We hit the abdominal stretch but Kamikazi gets caught grabbing the rope. Pete has to fight out of a sleeper and it's time for some snap jabs, followed by a splash to finish Kamikazi at 7:09.

**Rating:** C. Oh yeah this show is going to be a blast. This was every bit as goofy as you could want it to be and Pete was having a great time with the goofy over the top stuff. This was a great way to start the show and it has me looking forward to see what they're going to do next. That's a nice feeling to have and they're off to a rather good start.

The unnamed commissioner (Scott D'Amore) hypes up the Fall Maul Tournament, which has wrestlers and fighters of different disciplines facing off. It's like mixing martial arts! Boris Alexiev (Santino Marella) straight off KILLING Muscles McGhee in the semifinals, is ready to do the same to Tim Burr. Alexiev: "If he dies, he dies."

DJ 2 Large (Moose, the reigning International Commonwealth Championship (yes championship) is here to dance because he just retained his title at Ghouls Just Want To Have Fun. Bad Man Bart wasn't good enough to take the title so now he wants all challenges. Apparently the \$361,000 Man is coming for the title but Large says said Man has a scrawny neck.

Cue the \$361,000 Man (RD Evans) to say in this world, EVERYONE HAS A DOLLAR AMOUNT! Hold on though as we have an update: he is now the \$369,000 Man, so how much is that title going to cost him? The official offer is \$10,000, but Large's answer will come in the form of a freestyle: "Go DJ go DJ go, go Dj go DJ go, go DJ go, my answer is no!" That doesn't work for the Man, so here is the Masked Brother to go after Large. A match is on for later tonight.

Walter Chestnut (Dave Penzer) has recently lost control of the promotion so he's here with Neptune (Shera) to get a job of any kind. Tonight, he's ready for Frank The Butch.

Frank The Butcher (Rhino) and Giuseppe Scovelli Sr. (Scott D'Amore, the commissioner/boss) are ready to make mince meat out of Neptune.

We look at Red Letter pinning Lady Bird Johnson last week.

Letter (Jody Threat) wants respect and uses the word rapid, so here is Rapid Delivery Pete to say he gets no respect around here.

### Neptune vs. Frank The Butcher

Walter Chestnut and Giuseppe Scovelli Sr. are here too. The fans want the Butcher to chop him up, with the chants getting louder as Butcher shrugs off being rammed into the corner. They go to the floor with Butcher getting posted to slow things down. Chestnut gets in some choking but Neptune dives into a raised boot. Butcher strikes away and hits a hard clothesline for the pin at 3:40.

**Rating:** C. Short and to the point here as Chestnut's career continues to fall apart with his latest client losing to a meat man. Rhino is kind of perfect for the Butcher as he's more or less playing the same person but in a white suit. Not quite a squash here, but Butcher was rarely in trouble and the fans were WAY behind him.

Post match Chestnut and Shera do get jobs...cleaning the arena.

Video on the Hard Workers (Deaner and Jake Something), Fabulous Ones knockoff

### Sunday Morning Express vs. Hard Workers

The Express would be Editor-In-Chief (Chris Sabin) and the Paper Boy (Jack Price). Before the match, the Editor talks about how everyone here in Ottawa reads his paper. He's ready for tomorrow's headline, which will be about the team winning. The Workers (Ornery Otis Oates and Hard Harry Hall) apparently used to wrestle in Memphis against the Fantastics.

The Editor works on Hall's arm to start but the Paper Boy won't tag in, meaning Hall can work on the arm right back. Oates comes in for the strutting...uh, well nothing actually so it's off to the Paper Boy to work on Oates' leg. The Editor

misses an elbow though and it's back to Hall to clean house. Everything breaks down and Paper Boy gets in a cheap shot on Hall, allowing the Editor to score the rollup pin at 6:12.

**Rating:** C+. The fun part of this show is just seeing what wacky ideas these people can come up with next. A fighting newspaper team is certainly an idea and telling everyone to ready his headlines could be worse. The Workers weren't the worst idea, but they were such a Fabs knockoff that it really didn't work out very well.

Rip Ryzor (Ace Austin) and Rusty Iron (I believe it's Gia Miller) ask rookie Tommy Dreamer (Tommy Dreamer) for a cigarette, but he doesn't smoke. Ryzor says Dreamer will never make it in wrestling.

Post break, Dreamer has, uh, relieved himself in someone's (Brian Myers) bag. Apparently it was supposed to be Ryzor's, but Myers is sick at the smell. Someone else (Sheldon Jean) comes in with a whistle so Myers vomits on him. Giuseppe Scovelli Sr. comes in and says Walter Chestnut and Neptune have their first assignment.

### Rip Ryzor/Rusty Iron vs. Cowboy Colt McCoy/Georgia Cobb

McCoy (Eddie Edwards) is a Canadian cowboy and Cobb (Jordynne Grace) is rather muscular. Ryzor and McCoy start things off but it's off to Cobb before any contact. Iron comes in as well and gets run over with a quick shoulder. Cobb's elbow gets two as everything breaks down. McCoy gives Cobb a white cowboy hat and stereo faceplants on the mat have the villains in more trouble.

A Ryzor distraction lets Iron get in a low blow as we take a break. Back with Ryzor getting rolled up and kicked out to the floor, allowing the double tags back to the women. Cobb's Vader Bomb gets two so Ryzor comes in for a cheap shot. Everything breaks down and McCoy hits a Twist of Fate on Ryzor. Cobb's airplane spin into a Regal Roll finishes Iron at

10:24.

**Rating:** C. This was by far the longest match of the night and the joke started to wear a little thin by the end. Granted there wasn't much of a joke to be seen in this one as it was just four wrestlers having a mixed tag. It wasn't bad or anything, but it was just competent enough to feel like it doesn't belong on a show designed to be a big parody.

The Masked Brother (Frankie Kazarian) talks about being all over the world and calls out Brody for cheating at cards. There ain't no other so go tell your mother that you got beat up by the Masked Brother. And yes, he is wearing a Ribiera jacket.

We get a preview for Dishonorable Discharge, which appears to be the show taped over last year's Wrestlemania weekend in Dallas (and has never aired anywhere that I've seen, which is a shame as I was in the front row and had as much fun as I've had at any show).

Last week, Quincy Cosmos became #1 contender for the Excitement Title.

International Commonwealth Television Title: DJ 2 Large vs. Masked Brother

Brother is challenging and has the \$369,000 Man with him. Hold on though as Large goes into the crowd to dance to start. We get a weapons check and the referee finds a hammer, a box cutter and a flashlight on the Brother. Large keeps dancing, even as he has a full nelson on the Brother, who involuntarily dances as well. The Man offers a distraction and is quickly ejected.

We take a break and come back with Large fighting out of a chinlock, meaning it's more dancing. The legdrop misses though and Brother drops an elbow for two. The referee gets bumped so Large's clothesline only gets two. Brother is knocked outside

so here are Chestnut and Neptune to distract the referee. Cue the Man to send in some goons, who are beaten up by Large. The distraction lets Brother get in a shot with...something, for the pin and the title at 9:27.

**Rating:** C+. This was so fun with all kinds of entertaining stuff, capped off by Large dancing throughout. That's all you need at times and the title change, especially with the shenanigans, should be brought up on the next show. Large is about as over the top as you can get and my goodness does it work.

Here's what's coming on next week's show.

Tim Burr (Josh Alexander, a lumberjack) is ready to defend the memory of Muscles McGhee. Yes he's a bit scared of this kind of opponent but he's chopped down a lot of trees.

Fall Maul Tournament Finals: Boris Alexiev vs. Tim Burr

Alexiev (Santino Marella, an evil Russian and former OVW star) has Colonel Corn (Alpha Bravo) with him. Burr grabs a hammerlock to start and chops Alexiev to the floor as commentary tries to figure out this concept of "mixed martial arts". Back in and Burr hammers away in the corner but Colonel offers a distraction.

Some chops let Alexiev go up top but he gets crotched right back down. Burr takes the suspenders down but gets pulled into a crossface. With that broken up, Burr knocks him off the top but Corn offers another distraction. This time Alexiev tries the claw, only to grab the Colonel by mistake. The distraction lets Burr hit a top rope ax handle (ok that's perfect) for the pin at 6:30.

**Rating:** B. This gets a higher rating because Burr is possibly the best thing on the entire show. To say he is feeling this would be an understatement and the double ax handle finisher was quite the brilliant ending. This was the Canadian Pride

moment and there isn't a much better way to end a show.

The locker room comes out to celebrate to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. I was laughing throughout this show as they have so much fun with the whole thing. It's completely not serious and they know how goofy the entire concept is. It wouldn't work as more than a one off and Impact keeps it for special occasions. This was really funny and if you have a chance, check out some of it as they know exactly what they're doing here.

### Results

Rapid Delivery Pete b. Kamikazi – Splash

Frank The Butcher b. Neptune – Clothesline

Sunday Morning Express b. Hard Workers – Rollup to Hall

Cowboy Colt McCoy/Georgia Cobb b. Rip Ryzor/Rusty Iron – Regal Roll to Iron

Masked Brother b. DJ 2 Large – Weapon shot

Tim Burr b. Boris Alexiev – Top rope double ax handle

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# Daily News Update – December 2, 2023

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[NXT LVL Up – November 24, 2023](#)

[Monday Night Raw – November 27, 2023](#)

[NXT – November 28, 2023](#)

[Dynamite – November 29, 2023](#)

[Smackdown – December 1, 2023](#)

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Meet The New Boss: Important Note On Vince McMahon's Involvement With CM Punk's WWE Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/meet-new-boss-important-note-vince-mcmahons-involvement-cm-punks-wwe-return/>

Worth A Try: WWE Has A New Strategy To Keep Wrestlers Around (And It Just Might Work).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/worth-try-wwe-new-strategy-keep-wrestlers-around-just-might-work/>

One More Time: Former WWE Stable Reunites For The First Time In Four Years.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-time-former-wwe-stable-reunites-first-time-four-years/>



WATCH: Shinsuke Nakamura Reveals His New Target (And It's A Big One).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-shinsuke-nakamura-reveals-new-target-big-one/>

Important Loss: Longtime AEW Backstage Worker And Wrestler Announces Resignation.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/important-loss-longtime-aew-backstage-worker-wrestler-announces-resignation/>

Champ Down? AEW World Champion MJF Reportedly Suffers Torn Labrum, Future Plans.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/champ-aew-world-champion-mjf-reportedly-suffers-torn-labrum-future-plans/>

She's In? Controversial Wrestling Name Reportedly Backstage At WWE Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-controversial-wrestling-name-reportedly-backstage-wwe-monday-night-raw/>

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wants-major-update-ronda-rouseys-wrestling-future-roh-appearance/>

Getting There: Injured NXT Star Nearing Return To The Ring After Nearly Ten Month Absence.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/getting-injured-nxt-star-nearing-return-ring-nearly-ten-month-absence/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: How A CM Punk Decision May Have Led To QT Marshall Leaving AEW.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-cm-punk-decision-may-led-qt-marshall-leaving-aew/>

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/far-good-details-cm-punk-s-monday-night-raw-promo-backstage-attitude/>

WATCH: Mercedes Mone Back In The Ring Before Full Time Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-mercedes-mone-back-ring-full-time-return/>

Congratulations! AEW Couple Welcomes First Daughter.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/congratulations-aew-couple-welcomes-first-daughter/>

On Assignment: Why Triple H Missed This Week's Monday Night Raw, Who Was In Charge.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/assignment-triple-h-missed-weeks-monday-night-raw-charge/>

VIDEO: Missing WWE Superstar Reveals New Baby Girl.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/congratulations-missing-ww-e-superstar-reveals-new-baby-girl/>

Keep In Line: CM Punk Reportedly Has Special Clause In New WWE Contract.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/keep-line-cm-punk-reportedly-special-clause-new-ww-e-contract/>

She's On To Something: Britt Baker Takes Issue With Lack Of AEW Promo Time.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-something-britt-baker-takes-issue-lack-aew-promo-time/>

Him? Roman Reigns In Line For Big Feud Down The Road.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/roman-reigns-line-big-feud-road/>

Even Longer: Bad News On Injured AEW Star's Return To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/even-longer-bad-news-injured-aew-stars-return-ring/>

Dream Come True? WWE Reportedly Hopeful About CM Punk vs. Steve Austin Taking Place.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/dream-come-true-ww-e-reportedly-hopeful-cm-punk-vs-steve-austin-taking-place/>

He's In: WWE Officially Adds Superstar To SmackDown Roster.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-ww-e-officially-adds-superstar-smackdown-roster/>

He's Back: WWE Announces Several SmackDown Dates For Roman Reigns.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-back-ww-e-announces-s>

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WATCH: Missing AEW Star Reveals Severe Health Problems Causing Year Plus Long Absence From The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-missing-aew-star-reveals-severe-health-problems-causing-year-plus-long-absence-ring/>

It Got Better: Jim Ross Reveals Odd Former WWE Rule, Why It Was Dropped.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/got-better-jim-ross-reveals-odd-former-wwe-rule-dropped/>

Woo? Ric Flair Line From Upcoming AEW Rampage Promo Likely To Be Removed (Contains Mild SPOILERS).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/woo-ric-flair-line-upcoming-aew-rampage-promo-likely-removed-contains-mild-spoilers/>

Homecoming? Missing WWE Superstars May Be Returning This Week On SmackDown.

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And Gone: WWE Reportedly Making "Mass Releases" At Headquarters, On One-Screen Talent Confirms Release.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/gone-wwe-reportedly-making-mass-releases-headquarters-one-screen-talent-confirms-release/>

Signed Up: Randy Orton Makes Important Decision About WWE Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/signed-randy-orton-makes-important-decision-wwe-future/>

Next Challenger Up: Top WWE Name Possible For Roman Reigns'

Next Opponent.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-challenger-top-wwe-name-possible-roman-reigns-next-opponent/>

The Answer: Ronda Rousey Clarifies Her Future With AEW And Ring Of Honor.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/answer-ronda-rousey-clarifies-future-wrestling/>

One Down: More On WWE Looking For New Monday Night Raw TV Deal, One Pitch Turned Down.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-wwe-looking-new-monday-night-raw-tv-deal-one-pitch-turned/>

That's A Long Time: Update On MJF's Injury Status, Plans For The Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-long-time-update-mjfs-injury-status-plans-future/>

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**Smackdown – December 1, 2023:**

# Signed, Smackdown Delivered

## Smackdown

Date: December 1, 2023

Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York

Commentators: Michael Cole, Kevin Patrick, Corey Graves

We're done with Survivor Series and that means it is time to start getting ready for the Royal Rumble. As a result, we are likely to need a new challenger for Roman Reigns and wouldn't you know it, Randy Orton happens to be here tonight. That should be enough, but we also have some Damage CTRL issues to cover. Let's get to it.

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

Here is Bianca Belair to get things going so we see a video on the women's WarGames match. Belair thanks her teammates for helping her in WarGames but she's not done with Damage CTRL. She wants her title back from Iyo Sky so here is Damage CTRL (minus Bayley) to interrupt. Dakota Kai says if Belair wants the title match, she'll have to go through the entire team. That works for Belair, but here are Charlotte and Shotzi to interrupt. The brawl is on, with Damage CTRL being cleared out rather quickly.

Post break, Damage CTRL runs into Bayley, who needs to be out there tonight when Kairi Sane faces Bianca Belair. Bayley looks worried.

## Butch vs. Bobby Lashley

Lashley has the Street Profits with him. Before the match, Lashley (who is rather popular) says this isn't what Butch wants to do. Butch goes right after him and gets powered into the corner for his efforts. Back up and Butch dropkicks him to the floor for a dive off the apron and a knockdown.

We take a break and come back with Lashley snapping off a suplex. The high angle spinebuster puts Butch down again and Lashley sends him outside. The spear hits buckle though and Butch manages some enziguris. A standing Sliced Bread gives Butch two but Lashley is right back with a running powerslam for the same. There's the spear to finish Butch at 8:08.

**Rating:** C+. I'm really not sure what they're doing with Lashley here, as he's one of the biggest stars in WWE but he's just kind of there on Smackdown. You could easily swap him into a main event or title program and it wouldn't be a problem, but here he is instead. On the other hand you have Butch, who is stuck without anyone to help him and not being able to do anything on his own. If that's the case, just make him Pete Dunne again already.

Video on the men's WarGames match.

Paul Heyman comes in to see Nick Aldis and asks about Randy Orton being here tonight. Aldis is planning to sign Orton to an exclusive Smackdown contract tonight, even if it costs him the entire Bloodline. If that doesn't work for Heyman, what is he going to do about it? Heyman: "Anything it takes."

A banged up Butch doesn't know why Ridge Holland walked out last week but Pretty Deadly comes in to mock him. The fight is on, with Butch getting knocked down by the numbers' game.

Video on Santos Escobar turning on the LW0.

Santos Escobar is ready to teach Joaquin Wilde a lesson.

Santos Escobar vs. Joaquin Wilde

Wilde starts fast and knocks him to the floor to start for a nice looking top rope flip dive. Back in and Escobar ties him in the Tree of Woe for a running dropkick to take over. Escobar cranks on the arm for a bit until Wilde fights up. A dropkick to the knee slows Escobar down and a rolling DDT

gives Wilde two. Escobar isn't having that though and runs him over, setting up the Phantom Driver for the pin at 3:59

**Rating:** C. Escobar's rise continues and it makes perfect sense to have him take out some of the LWO. Granted you might not remember that Wilde is part of the team as he has barely been around in such a long time. The big showdown with Rey Mysterio is coming but WWE is doing a nice job of getting him ready on the way there.

Post match Escobar stays on Wilde but Dragon Lee runs in for the save.

Adam Pearce comes in to see Nick Aldis, because he has his own contract offer for Randy Orton.

Here is Logan Paul for his championship celebration. Paul has a message to everyone who has been against him to start: WHERE ARE YOU NOW? There are people backstage who hate that he's so good and now he has the US Title. Now he wants some challengers and we are going to have a tournament to crown his new challenger. People involved include Santos Escobar, Dragon Lee, Karrion Kross, an unnamed NXT star, Austin Theory, Grayson Waller and Kevin Owens.

The tournament starts next week but here is Owens to interrupt. Owens insults Paul's energy drink and says the nightmare is ending when he wins the US Title. Paul says six seconds is five more than he needs to KO Owens, who says this is his world. Cue Austin Theory and Grayson Waller (the latter being Owens' opponent tonight) to run their mouths, earning a right hand from Owens.

### Kevin Owens vs. Grayson Waller

Logan Paul is on commentary and Austin Theory is at ringside. Owens starts fast but Waller gets in a shot to the back of the head to take over. A superkick takes Owens down as Paul isn't worried about the winner of the tournament. Waller's middle



rope elbow gets two but Owens is back with a suplex. It's still too early for the Cannonball so they head outside, with Owens nailing a clothesline. A splash off the apron connects as well as commentary asks if Paul is ready for Owens. Paul: "Even if I'm not, I'm going to pretend I am." Theory offers a distraction though and Owens' hand is crushed in the steps.

We take a break and come back with Owens hitting a frog splash, only to bang up his hand in the process. Owens manages a DDT and superkicks Theory into the corner. Ow the Cannonball connects and a Swanton gets two. Waller goes after the hand to block the Stunner and we hit the armbars. With that broken up, Waller ties the hand in the corner and tries a running kick, which is reversed into a rollup to give Owens the pin at 10:50.

**Rating:** B-. There is something nice about having the match built around Owens' hand injury and then going with a rollup rather than Owens hitting his finisher in spite of the injury. Owens winning the tournament is a very real possibility and he already has the match with Paul set up. If nothing else, the talking alone will be worth the whole thing.

Video on CM Punk's return. He'll be on Smackdown next week.

### Bianca Belair vs. Kairi Sane

Charlotte and Shotzi are here too. We go to the back, where Bayley seems worried so Iyo Sky tells her to stay here instead. The rest of Damage CTRL goes to the ring and we're ready to go. Belair runs her over to start and snaps off a dropkick to take over. Asuka offers a distraction so Charlotte does the same. Only Charlotte gets caught so she's caught, but Asuka tries to come in. That's too much for the referee, who ejects everyone else as we take a break.

Back with Sane cranking on something resembling a Boston crab, followed by a double arm choke. Belair fights up and snaps off some slams, setting up the handspring moonsault for two. Sane

is back with a shot to the face and another forearm from the top gets two more. They go out to the floor, where Belair Glam Slams her onto the apron. Cue Bayley to go after Belair, only to have the Insane Elbow broken up. The KOD gives Belair the pin at 10:36.

**Rating:** B-. It's nice to see two stories in a single match like this with Damage CTRL's issues with Bayley, plus Belair having to fight through the entire team to get a title shot. That could open up more than a few doors and I'm interested in seeing where both of the stories go. Either way, Nice main event here, as Belair gets a win while Damage CTRL's issues continue.

Here is Nick Aldis, with Adam Pearce next to him, to introduce Randy Orton. The fans are rather pleased to see Orton but the GM's start fighting over him. Pearce offers Orton the winner of Jey Uso vs. Seth Rollins (Orton is intrigued) while Aldis counters with the guys that took Orton out (Orton is again intrigued). Cue Paul Heyman to interrupt, saying there will be no RK0's this evening, nor will Orton get to make a decision tonight.

The Bloodline will make Orton's decision for him, so here are Jimmy Uso and Solo Sikoa to interrupt. The fight is on with Orton being beaten down, only to have LA Knight run in for the save. Jimmy is left alone for the beating and the RK0, leaving Orton to pick up the contracts. Heyman: "GO TO RAW! YOU'RE SAFE ON RAW!" Orton signs with Smackdown and Heyman isn't happy. Orton says Heyman needs to call Roman Reigns because daddy is back. Aldis celebrates with Orton, who drops him with an RK0. Heyman calls Reigns to end the show. I'll take that over a long running back and forth ordeal over where Orton should sign.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a show that was going at a slower pace, which makes sense as they have almost two months before the Royal Rumble. That being said, Orton signing and the

announcement of the tournament, plus Bayley and Damage CTRL's issues continuing make for a pretty packed show. They can start really hammering home more for the Rumble in the next few weeks, though they're off to a good enough start.

### Results

Bobby Lashley b Butch – Spear

Santos Escobar b. Joaquin Wilde – Phantom Driver

Kevin Owens, b. Grayson Waller – Rollup

Bianca Belair b. Kairi Sane – KOD

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# **Dynamite – November 29, 2023: It's Still Working**

### Dynamite

Date: November 29, 2023

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: Bryan Danielson, Excalibur, Taz

It's the second week of the Continental Classic and that seems to be the focal point of the show again. That went well enough last week, but I'm curious to see how well it holds up week after week. Other than that, Christian Cage has to respond to Adam Copeland's challenge for a TNT Title match next week. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Bryan Danielson joins commentary.

Continental Classic Gold League: Jon Moxley vs. Jay Lethal

Lethal takes him down rather fast to start but the figure four doesn't last long. Instead Lethal knocks Moxley outside for the suicide dive, only to have Moxley come right back with a dive of his own. Moxley comes up favoring his knee so Lethal is right back to go after the knee. Lethal knocks him off the apron and we take a break.

Back with Moxley grabbing a cutter but Lethal pulls him off the top with a super dragon screw legwhip. More shots to the knee have Moxley down but he sends Lethal into the corner. Moxley's rear naked choke is broken up though and now the Figure Four can go on for a lot longer. The rope is grabbed though and it's a Paradigm Shift into a pulling piledriver. The rear naked choke goes on though and Lethal is done at 11:20.

**Rating:** B-. Lethal continues to be one of the most consistent stars in AEW as he can have a nice match against anyone. That was the case here, with Lethal working on the knee, even if Moxley only sold it so much. Moxley feels like a strong candidate to go to the finals, so stacking him up with wins to start makes sense.

## Gold League Standings

Jon Moxley – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Swerve Strickland – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Jay White – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Rush – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Mark Briscoe – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Jay Lethal – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Following his loss on Collision, Eddie Kingston says he didn't deserve to win and now he has to face Bryan Danielson. Time to heal up.

Danielson is all fired up and says he's coming to win.

Tony Schiavone announces the Revolution will take place on March 3 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Naturally this means a discussion about the Clash Of Champions match between Sting and Ric Flair, who come in to talk about said match. Sting thanks Flair for putting him on the map that night and Flair talks about how awesome Sting was that night. Trivia for you: according to AEW, that was the only match these two have ever had and now they're legends 35 years later with nothing in between.

## Continental Classic Gold League: Rush vs. Mark Briscoe

They go right to the slugout to start with Briscoe knocking him into the corner. Rush switches places with him and takes Briscoe out of the corner before they head outside. An exchange of whips into the barricade has Rush down, setting up the Bang Bang Elbow off the apron. Back in and Rush hits a superkick but Briscoe hits a hard lariat as we take a break.

We come back with Rush holding a leglock, with Briscoe making it over to the ropes. Rush sends him flying into the corner but a spear cuts off the Bull's Horns for two. They fight to the apron until Briscoe charges into a suplex out to the floor. Back in and Rush gets knocked off the top, setting up the Froggy Bow for two. The Jay Driller is broken up though

and the Bull's Horns finishes for Rush at 11:22.

**Rating:** B-. This was the fight you would expect from these two and it was a fun brawl. Rush winning does get him on the board, but it's rather frustrating to see Briscoe lose so often. He has so much charisma and could be a steady hand in the midcard. Instead he seems there to put people over, but maybe things can change in the next few weeks.

### Gold League Standings

Jon Moxley – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Swerve Strickland – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

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Jay Lethal – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Toni Storm is proud of winning the Women's World Title but she's a bit tired from celebrating and has some gout.

Here is MJF, on a cane, for a chat. He's set to defend the World Title against Samoa Joe next month and he respects Joe very much. We hear a story about MJF seeing Joe in TNA and knowing what kind of a monster he saw. Then Joe went to WWE, who didn't see his talents or make him a World Champion. The road Joe paved brought MJF to wrestling though so thank you....but MJF has gone down his own road as well. MJF talks about the names he has beaten and now their match is about MJF's own legacy.

On December 30, MJF doesn't care about his injuries because it is going to be about how much fight he has in him. If Joe wants the title, he'll have to put MJF down. Then the lights go out and the Devil minions show up, only to have Joe make the save. Then the screen goes back and a text crawl comes up, with someone challenging Joe and MJF to team together to face the unknown in a tag match. An angry MJF says it's on and promises to unmask people.

Commentary says their IT security is looking into who keeps taking over.

### Wardlow vs. AR Fox

Fox knocks him over the top and out to the floor to start the beating on the floor. They get inside with Wardlow suplexing him over the top to get us to the opening bell. Wardlow takes him back outside to keep up the beating but Fox kicks him down back inside. A 450 gives Fox two but Wardlow calmly powerbombs him. A Swanton crushes Fox and another powerbomb makes the referee stop it at 3:13.

**Rating:** C+. This was another slow step forward for Ward low as he gets to beat up a slightly bigger nae this week. That is a nice way to keep him moving but it is only going to mean so much if there isn't some consistency. Wardlow has been higher than this before, only to have everything stop out of nowhere. Keep this up and it should work.

### Hardys/Brother Zay vs. Action Andretti/Top Flight

Andretti sunset flips Matt for two to start but the Hardys take Andretti down without much trouble. It's off to Zay, who gets caught in the wrong corner, allowing Dante to come in for a running corner clothesline. We take a break and come back with Jeff taking Andretti into the corner.

Andretti fights back to take Matt down and the hot tag brings Dante back in. Everything breaks down and Zay takes Dante down for two. Jeff cuts Darius off the apron (the fans do not approve), leaving Dante to get caught in a double electric chair/springboard missile dropkick combination for two. Back up and a dropkick into a German suplex gives Dante the pin on Zay at 9:46.

**Rating:** C+. This was about getting Dante back in the ring to show that he can still do it. You can see the athleticism there and Top Flight has looked like a potential breakout team

for a long time now. What matters though is how long they can stay healthy, as it feels like they have spent years apart due to the injuries destroying them. For now though, I can go with the Hardys putting someone else over, as it's what they do best at the moment.

Post match, Penta El Zero Miedo, Hijo del Vikingo and Komander seem to want to face Top Flight and Action Andretti.

#### TBS Title: Julia Hart vs. Emi Sakura

Hart is defending and due to House Rules, the match cannot end by submission. Hart starts fast by knocking her into the corner for a running elbow. Sakura chops her way out of trouble but gets taken down by the arm. They head outside with Sakura hitting a running crossbody against the steps as we take a break.

Back with Sakura hitting the delayed butterfly backbreaker, only to have Hart pull her into a triangle choke. Since that doesn't work, Hart hits a running forearm to the back, setting up the moonsault to retain at 7:34. Sakura seemed to try to roll away and it looked like Hart almost had to hold her down for the pin.

**Rating:** C. The match was nothing of note but I'm a bit curious about that ending. I'm not sure if that was a communication issue or something that didn't work like they were planning. Either way, it's another win for Hart, who is on a roll at the moment and getting win after win is the right way to go.

Here is Christian Cage, with security, to call out Adam Copeland for a chat. Cue Copeland, so Cage sends security away. Cage talks about their history together and how much success they had on their own and together. We hear about their history, including Cage and Copeland being friends as children. Copeland was raised as Cage's brother so they should do it one more time. Copeland seem to agree but then catches the low blow. He's coming for the title next week and says "go



f\*\*\* yourself", which is NOT censored on the TNT feed. Good stuff here, as Copeland knew Cage and didn't fall for his tricks.

### Continental Classic Gold League: Swerve Strickland vs. Jay White

Feeling out process to start and they're quickly out on the floor. Swerve sends him hard into the barricade and fires off some chops back inside. Things head back outside with Swerve dropping him over the barricade, followed by an apron double stomp to the back. White manages a DDT on the way back inside though and we take a break.

Back with White cranking on both arms but Swerve comes up with some chops. White doesn't seem to mind and suplexes him into the corner, meaning it's time to yell a lot. Swerve's rolling Downward Spiral is blocked but so is the swinging Rock Bottom. A quick suplex gives Swerve two but White grabs what looked to be a Downward Spiral.

Swerve hits a quick clothesline though and they slug it out. White goes back to the knee and a swinging Rock Bottom gets two. Back up and White tries the low blow but gets taken down instead. The Swerve Stomp gets two more but White grabs a quick Blade Runner. Swerve rolls to the apron before the cover though and they chop it out with five minutes left...when Swerve grabs a cradle out of nowhere for the pin at 15:26.

**Rating:** B. These two tore it up here as Swerve continues to FINALLY get the chance to show what he can do. It feels like we've been waiting to see it happen for the better part of ever now and at least it seems to finally be going somewhere. Beating White clean is a pretty big deal, so well done on making someone feel like a much bigger deal, which isn't easy to do.

### Gold League Standings

Jon Moxley – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Swerve Strickland – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Jay White – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Rush – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Mark Briscoe – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Jay Lethal – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

**Overall Rating:** B. The tournament is by far the biggest focus for the show and that is good enough, but they also focused on the other important stories on the show. That would include the Cage vs. Copeland title match next week, plus the banged up MJF vs. Samoa Joe. Good show here, though I continue to wonder how long the tournament is going to be able to last at this level.

### Results

Jon Moxley b. Jay Lethal – Rear naked choke

Rush b. Mark Briscoe – Bull's Horns

Wardlow b. AR Fox via referee stoppage

Action Andretti/Top Flight b. Hardys/Brother Zay – German suplex to Zay

Julia Hart b. Emi Sakura – Moonsault

Swerve Strickland b. Jay White – Rollup

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