

Coming Soon: Table of Contents

Sometime soon, hopefully before the end of the year, I'll be trying to consolidate a list of links to all shows I've done and putting them on the top of the main page. I'll keep it updated with each review I post for easier navigation for both you all and myself.

KB

What Do You Want To See From Me?

Simple question: what kind of content do you want on here? I'm not at all saying I'll change the style I've been using, but what would you like to see as far as content? The style of the reviews isn't going to change and I'm going to be doing the regular TV shows no matter what. Aside from that, what would you like to see?

EOTY Awards – Show of the Year

And I mean PPV, not Raw/Impact etc. It's hard to go against Money in the Bank. I mean, you had two great matches and one

classic with a great moment to end it. Just an all around great show and nothing all year comes close to it.

Your picks/thoughts?

Monday Night Raw – December 26, 2011 – GET THAT MASKED MAN A HUG!

Monday Night Raw

Date: December 26, 2011

Location: Allstate Arena, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

After last week's solid show, we close out the year with this one. There are still five weeks before the Rumble so they could easily burn another show here and things would still be fine. It should be interesting to see where they go here because there really aren't any matches set up for the PPV, other than maybe Ziggler vs. Ryder II. Other than that there isn't anything really clear. Let's get to it.

Here's Punk...and never mind as it's Ace coming out to his music and in a Punk shirt. He says it's a microcosm of the unpredictability that you've gotten under his leadership. The future begins tonight and here's Punk. After a loud chant for him, he says that if he didn't know any better, Ace is trying to antagonize him. Why shouldn't Punk just kick him in the face right now? Ace says he can't because he'll get fired.

Tonight, Punk has the night off. Oh and he's kidding again.

Tonight Punk is wrestling up to three times in a gauntlet match. If any of them beats him, that person gets a title shot next week. Punk wants to know what happens if he wins all three matches. Ace doesn't know, so Punk suggests he gets a shot at Ace if he does. Ace eventually agrees. Punk's posing is cut off by the latest video. It says he is coming and that he'll reclaim what is his. The words this time are The End Begins Next Monday.

Booker T vs. Cody Rhodes

Non-title here. Cole and Jerry has an actual lighthearted argument over who sang Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Hiptoss gives Booker an early advantage and a slam gets two. Snap suplex gets one. Axe kick misses though and Rhodes takes over with a neckbreaker. Out to the floor goes Booker and we take a break. Back with Booker taking over. He spins into the corner though and an elbow takes him down. Off to a crossface chickenwing

Clothesline gets two for Cody. The fans of course chant for Booker and Cody is getting frustrated. Booker fights back and it's boo/yay tonight. Cody dropkicks him down and works the arm. Camel clutch goes on and Booker gets sent into the corner. He gets his feet up though and looks like he needs oxygen. Side slam gets two. The Jack Brisco sunset flip doesn't look that good as it gets two. Rollup gets two for Cody. The Beautiful Disaster looks to have been short and it gets two. Cross Rhodes is countered but the side kick misses. The axe kick hits though and it gets the clean pin at 12:06.

Rating: C. The sloppiness hurt it and I'm not sure I like the idea of Cody losing clean. Booker looked kind of old here, but it's what, his fourth match this year? Not bad and I guess the rematch is coming at the Rumble? Also the booking isn't bad as he lost when he got beaten down before the match but wins when it's even. That's not as bad.

Ryder tells Cena that he owes Cena for everything. Cena says no, you don't. Everything was Ryder getting here on his own. Cena is going a-Kane hunting though.

Jerry got a note saying that we'll learn the three opponents for Ace soon. Oh ok he's going to announce them. The three opponents are Jack Swagger, Dolph Ziggler and Mark Henry.

Kelly has some weird flirting moment with Show when a referee says he's needed elsewhere.

Ace says Brodus is debuting next week on Raw. Show comes in and Ace talks about Otunga jumping him last week. Otunga says that's a lawsuit and Show says he can beat Otunga with an arm behind his back.

Swagger and Ziggler trade insults when Vickie comes in and says it doesn't matter who gets the show. Henry comes in and says excuse me. Ok then.

Eve Torres/Zack Ryder vs. Tyson Kidd/Natalya

...seriously? This is kind of a step down for Ryder isn't it? Eh well he was getting over and he wasn't in the original WWE plans so you know they're not going to be happy with it. Cole says that July 23rd will be the 1000th episode of Raw. Oh my that could be BAD. The guys start and nothing happens so it's off to the chicks. Eve does her dancing moonsault and it's back to the guys. We get stereo Broski Boots and the Rough Ryder ends this at 3:00. No idea why Ryder was in this.

Here's Cena who isn't well received by the fans. He acknowledges that the fans aren't happy with him and there's a Cena Sucks chant. Cena talks about how there's magic in this building in the form of three Wrestlemanias. Chicago inducted Eddie Guerrero into the Hall of Fame, which draws an Eddie chant. Also, right here in this building, CM Punk beat him for the WWE Championship.

New York is considered the capital of the WWE, but after seeing another show like this here in Chicago, he's not sure about that. Cena has somehow gotten the Chicago crowd on his side. Right now though, he's going to call out Kane. Cue Miz instead. Miz wants to face him right now because the win at Mania was tainted. Miz wants Rock to beat Cena and tonight he wants the last image of 2011 to be him standing tall over Cena. Cena wants Miz to shut up and wash the tan off his body. Get a referee out here right now and let's do it.

John Cena vs. The Miz

The fan that catches Cena's shirt won't throw it back. Good, he'd be stupid to do so. Cena controls early with a headlock and the fans are split on him. That's a step up for him in Chicago. Miz heads to the floor and grabs a mic. The fans are chanting for the wrong person so he's out of here. It's a countout at 2:30, most of which happened during Miz ranting against Chicago.

Miz sets for his catchphrase and here's R-Truth for the on the floor brawl. So I guess Truth is face again. He destroys Miz and says he could finish Miz right now, but there's no fun in that. It's like Christmas: once you open the presents, it's all over. Every Monday Night should be like Christmas, so he's going to take his time getting to Miz, because Little Jimmy says it's ok. Truth hits him with a water bottle to end this.

Kane is officially here.

Big Show vs. David Otunga

Show must have an arm tied behind his back. It's the right arm too so there's no knockout punch or chokeslam. He'll be at the relentless mercy of the offense of DAVID OTUNGA. Otunga gets sent to the floor and here's Mark Henry. The match is officially thrown out at 2:00 despite Henry not touching him.

Henry clotheslines him down and here's Bryan to distract show.

He runs and Henry gets the arm loose. Otunga breaks up a chokeslam and takes it himself. Show officially wins by DQ. HENRY NEVER TOUCHED HIM!!!!

Here's Del Rio but in a wheelchair. Ricardo, in a neckbrace, does the intro anyway. Jerry makes me laugh by giving us the information of the wheelchair, which is valued at about \$200! Del Rio confirms the true rumor that he tore his groin last week. He says he'll be back and here are the Bellas to berate the crowd. One of them says they'll throw a party in his honor. It's Nikki apparently. They get in an argument over who gets to throw the party so Alberto yells at them. He throws them out and blast it as they were looking good tonight. His New Year's Resolution is that he'll be champion again.

CM Punk vs. Jack Swagger/Dolph Ziggler/Mark Henry

It's a gauntlet match and if someone beats Punk, they get a title shot next week. If Punk sweeps it, he gets a match with Ace, presumably tonight. The opponents are in the order listed so Swagger is up first. Swagger hooks a test of strength but Punk stays on his head to keep from going down. Here come the kicks but Jack comes back with a gutbuster to take over.

Punk tries a cross body off the top but Swagger (almost) catches him in another gutbuster for two. At least he has a strategy. He sets for the Vader Bomb but Punk jumps up and catches him in the GTS position. That doesn't work so Punk kicks him in the head for the pin at 3:27. Here's Ziggler next but Swagger takes out the knee almost immediately before the bell.

Punk says he can go and we take a break. Back with Ziggler working on the knee. Sweet dropkick gets two for Dolph. Punk fights back with a slingshot and tries a neckbreaker but Dolph goes back to the leg. Off to a half crab which lasts awhile. Punk fights back and the knee isn't hurting so much now.

Using the good leg he fires off some kicks to the back and a

big kick to the head for two. Fameasser is blocked and there's the running knee in the corner. Vickie breaks up the GTS and the Fameasser hits this time for two. Cue Johnny Ace who ejects Vickie and Swagger. This is happening while Punk has Ziggler covered. The distraction lets the Zig Zag end Punk at 13:27.

Rating: C+. This was the ending I expected actually. It seemed too easy to go the way it was looking. Ziggler vs. Punk could be awesome if they give it enough time, which they probably won't. Decent stuff here though and it's good to see Dolph getting a chance to headline a Raw as he's earned so far.

Here's Kane to end the show. He talks about how the mask is his real face and everyone else is hiding. Cue Cena but Kane throws up a wall of fire to stop him. Kane says Cena is his target because Cena preaches to rise above hate. This world is a dark place and people should hate. Everyone hates, so why rise above it? He says that there's hatred in Cena but he's hiding from it. There's a Cena chant. In Chicago. Man that's scary.

Kane talks about how Cena will be free once he embraces the hate. Now the chant is dueling so the world is more correct. The people are going to help Cena embrace his hate. The last thing Cena will hear is them chanting Cena sucks. Kane needs some lessons from the Spirit Squad because they don't go along with Kane's idea. There's a mild dueling chant and Cena has to overact and make it seem like it was deafening. He hangs his head to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. I wasn't so huge on this show. There's some ok stuff in here but the show felt like other than the beginning, there was a lot of stuff just thrown in there with no real thinking behind it. I liked the ending as we got a reasonable (by Kane's standards) explanation of why he's going after Cena. Dolph vs. Punk should be good and that's what they're shooting for here, which is ok. Not a terrible show

but kind of weak.

Results

Booker T b. Cody Rhodes – Axe Kick

Zack Ryder/Eve Torres b. Tyson Kidd/Natalya – Rough Ryder to Kidd

John Cena b. The Miz via countout

Big Show b. David Otunga via DQ when Mark Henry interfered

Dolph Ziggler b. CM Punk – Zig Zag

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EOTY Awards – Worst Angle of the Year

There are a bunch of options for this. But it's pretty easily Cole in general. If I had to specify something, it's the overuse of Twitter. If you look at the Survivor Series buyrate, it came in low. Do you think that if maybe Rock had gotten something other than Cena's Lady Parts trending it might have been better? Like maybe, Survivor Series This Sunday? That's the problem with this Twitter obsession: they're using it for the wrong things. Who cares if Alicia Fox is trending? She's on TV for a minute a week. Get something where it's advertising a PPV or better yet, ADVERTISE THE FREAKING PPV. I'll stop there because I could go on for a week about this.

Your thoughts/picks?

EOTY Awards – Feud/Rivalry of the Year

The common sense answer would be Cena vs. Rock or Punk. I've never been one for common sense though. I'm going with Christian vs. Orton. They never stopped having good matches and the feud naturally progressed very well. You would see them building on sequences throughout the series of matches, such as the dive out of the corner by Christian being caught in an RK0. That turned into a fake in the second match, then Orton faked Christian by waiting with the RK0 again. That's thinking and calling back to previous matches, which is very rare today. I loved this feud and the blowoff was great. Feud of the year to me.

Your thoughts/picks?

EOTY Awards – Surprise of the Year

More options than I thought here. I'll take Rock's return. The rumor for the guest host was Justin Bieber and then they had the legs get out. I was skeptical when I saw them because I thought it would still be someone else, but I didn't predict

Rock. That was awesome and a great thing to see. And for those of you that still think it, no he didn't abandon us in the first place.

Your picks/thoughts?

Smackdown – December 23, 2011 – That Main Event Ticked Me Off

Smackdown

Date: December 23, 2011

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Booker T

We have a new world champion here (can't say Heavyweight at the moment) and it's Daniel Bryan. He cashed in his MITB case on Sunday after Big Show slayed the giant (no pun intended) and won the title. I'm not sure where they go from here because Bryan isn't someone that could credibly beat either of those guys. Still though it should be interesting to see where they go from here. Expect a potential throwaway show like Monday though. Let's get to it.

Do you know your enemy? Mine is a DVD burner that keeps skipping.

Here's Big Show to open the show. He talks about how he should be world champion here. Show says he worked 9 years to get back to the world title and he finally got there. On Sunday he beat the only man that has ever been able to throw him around

the ring. Show has a lot of mixed emotions such as disappointment, anger, shock and he's conflicted. He's not having a good day. We get a clip from Monday where Josh pointed out that Show has the shortest reign in history. The long stare at Josh was great.

Show says he's proud of himself for not going over the edge. He wants to give us his honest feelings but here's Henry. Henry wants to know why Show is proud. He says that'll be on Show's tombstone. Henry says Show should be embarrassed and humiliated. Show should take a week off then quit. Maybe he can get a job working as Santa. Henry is here to demand his rematch. Why would he get one? Show questions that too and here's Bryan. There's Tebow reference #1 during his entrance.

Booker says Bryan is officially back in the Fave Five. Bryan says no one in the arena, not even him, believes he's the World Heavyweight Champion. He says he's not the biggest, tallest, strongest, fastest, or most attractive. Nothing about him screams WWE Superstar but he's a great wrestler. Despite all the things he's not, he's the World Heavyweight Champion.

Henry says he's beaten Bryan up every time they've fought and he wants his title match tonight. Show says he beat Henry so he should get the shot. The big guys get ready to fight and here's Teddy. They'll have a #1 contenders match tonight. No time is given for when the world title match would take place. Show shakes Bryan's hand. Bryan offers a handshake to Henry who eventually goes to shake but Bryan pulls it away. Kind of a jerk no?

Cody Rhodes vs. Zack Ryder

Non-title here. Cody grabs the arm to start and Cole is talking about mood rings. He's all over Booker here and it's getting old fast. Zack uses some armdrags and hooks an armbars. Cody knocks him to the floor and rams Ryder into Booker. Booker glares at him as we take a break. Back with Cody

hitting the Alabama Slam for two. Ryder starts a brief comeback but a cross body hits the ropes, getting two for Cody.

Zack puts the brakes on in the corner and they ram heads. Back up and Ryder takes over to a nice reaction to the crowd. A running forearm in the corner sets up the Broski Boot for two. A middle rope dropkick misses and Booker grabs the mic. He leads the audience in a song about Cody the Red Nosed Reindeer. The distraction lets the Rough Ryder get the pin at 6:23 shown of 9:53.

Rating: C. The match was fine but apparently they're continuing the Booker vs. Cody feud. That's fine as Cody beat Booker up before the match so it wasn't exactly a clean victory. Not bad and it wasn't really meant to be anything significant. Also it's good that it wasn't a clean win over either guy as they need to keep both of these guys looking strong.

Santino comes into Teddy's office and suggests he should be the new assistant to Teddy due to Zack being champion now. Aksana comes in and sexual innuendo is made about her being the assistant. She and Santino leave so Vickie and Dolph come in. Vickie says everything aligned and Zack got lucky. Dolph says the same thing happened for Bryan to win the title. He asks for a match with Bryan tonight and Teddy sounds happy with it. Vickie says Bah Humbug to Teddy for some reason.

Big Show vs. Mark Henry

Earlier in the show than I expected. And here's David Otunga before the bell rings. He works for Johnny Ace and Ace is in charge of all WWE talent. Henry isn't medically cleared to wrestle tonight so there's no match. He wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday (booed) and turns around into the WMD. He sold it really well too. The replay made it look even better. Show DRILLED him.

Teddy is walking in the back when Miz comes up. He asks Teddy what he's doing tonight. Miz was told to be here tonight but Teddy says that wasn't from his office. Miz says that's more proof that Johnny Ace is running circles around him. Here's a very telling stat for you: since he won the WWE Title, no Smackdown star has been in a main event of a PPV. I looked it up and it's even longer than that. The last time it happened (excluding the Rumble) was Hell in a Cell 2010, or a streak of 16 PPVs in a row. Miz says he's going to stop the show and not let a match happen. Teddy says we'll see about that.

After a break Miz is in the ring. He isn't surprised Teddy couldn't find anyone to face him and shows clips of him hurting Truth and Morrison. He says all of the Smackdown locker room is full of cowards. There's no star on Smackdown who shines brighter than the rest like he does. He's the one on Conan and on the top rated radio show on Sirius XM. He also has an opponent who interrupts him.

Sheamus vs. The Miz

Miz tries to go toe to toe with him for some reason as Cole compares their mainstream appeal. Miz sends him into the post for two. He "hits" a running boot to the face and a DDT for two. It's been mostly Miz for the majority of this. He takes forever coming out of the corner though and runs into a double axe from Sheamus to shift control. Miz escapes the Celtic Cross and kicks Sheamus in the arm he's been holding. The Finale is escaped and the Brogue Kick kills Miz dead at 3:03.

Rating: C-. Miz looked a lot more dominant than he usually does here which was surprising. The match was nothing special and I'm kind of surprised they would have Miz lose clean that fast. Sheamus would seem to be the next guy in line for a title shot but we have to get the required return matches out of the way first.

Here's Barrett for some chatter. He says nothing can stop the

Barrett Barrage and we get a recap of the Barrett vs. Orton feud on the Tron. Barrett thinks his dominance of Orton puts him in line for a title shot. He wishes us a happy Christmas and goes to leave but here's Orton and it's on in the aisle. Orton slides him into the ring and tries an RKO but Barrett runs.

Randy chases him into the back and the fight continues there. Barrett kicks him in the ribs and tries to run again and they fight to a bicycle rack. Orton then...sprays Barrett with a gardening hose. Well at least that's not it as he sends him into a table of bottled water and pours trash on him. They go to the cars now and it's an RKO onto the top of one. The sound of that was great.

Same Second Coming video from Monday. I'm legit curious as to who it is.

Primo vs. Kofi Kingston

Primo immediately jumps him and Cole thinks the cousins have Air Boom's number. I have a feeling they'll be doing the whole "lose lose lose then win one match" road to the titles for them, which is horrible but common in WWE today. Primo controls and sweeps the leg to get Kofi down. Kofi ducks a charge and takes over as things speed up. The springboard cross body gets two. Rosa and Epico distract Kofi, allowing Primo to hit a top rope armdrag. And there's Trouble in Paradise for the pin at 3:09.

Rating: C-. Decent enough match but I'm really not looking forward to the seemingly inevitable new champions, mainly because they're a very boring gimmick. The Mexican team is something that can only go so far and the Colons are proof of that. Nothing to see here but Kofi made it decent enough.

Music video recapping TLC and Raw with the new champions celebrating.

Dolph Ziggler vs. Daniel Bryan

They have a TON of time. They go to the mat but Ziggler is very skilled there too so Bryan gets out of it. Booker and Cole get into their usual pattern of bickering until Josh gets things back under control. Bryan takes him to the mat and hooks a full surfboard. That move always impresses me. A dropkick misses and Dolph takes over. Ziggler does the situps thing but Bryan tries a LeBell Lock. Ziggler gets to the ropes and drop toe holds the champ into the middle buckle. Bryan is down as we take a break.

Back with Dolph taking Bryan down again via a dropkick. After a quick chinlock they collide in the middle and both guys are down. Here's Swagger as Bryan sends Ziggler to the floor. The flying shove takes Dolph down but Swagger runs Bryan over. Now here's Big Show who stalks Swagger. Ziggler grabs a sleeper but Bryan counters into a German for two. Here are the kicks and a BIG one to the head takes Dolph down for two. They go up to the corner and Bryan hits a top rope rana which Ziggler rolls through into a sunset flip for two. Fameasser gets two.

They go to the corner again and Ziggler gets crotched into a belly to back superplex for two. This is getting really good. Swagger jumps Big Show and they go into the ring. And here's Teddy to make it a tag match. SCREW THAT! I'm really getting tired of these tag match main events. We had a good match going here and now we get ANOTHER tag match instead. The match ran about 12:20 in total, counting commercial.

Rating: B. This really did make me mad. I was getting into their match but we have to get Big Show and Swagger in on this. And for WHAT? What reason does Swagger have to jump Show there other than the script calls for it? I guess the idea of having the world champion and one of the only interesting heels having a great match isn't what this company looks for right? We want pointless tags!

Dolph Ziggler/Jack Swagger vs. Big Show/Daniel Bryan

We join this in progress as Show takes Swagger to the mat. Off to Ziggler who gets caught in the corner and pounded on. After Show beats him down, here's Bryan to pick the bones. He misses a corner charge and lands on the back of his head. Back to Swagger who hits a Vader Bomb for two. The Double G Connection works on the leg and then it's time for the sleeper. That gets countered quickly and there's the tag to Show as well as Swagger. Swagger counters a chokeslam and takes out the knee. Bryan makes a blind tag and rolls through the ankle lock into the LeBell Lock for the tap at 6:54.

Rating: C. This match ticked me off. For one thing, Bryan looks like he can't beat Ziggler without Show. I mean Heaven forbid a face gets a clean win over a heel right? Here's my gripe with this in general: who does this benefit? Bryan can go toe to toe with Dolph and can beat Swagger, which we knew coming in. Swagger doesn't win much, which we knew coming in. Ziggler can go toe to toe with Bryan, which we knew coming in. Show is dominant, which we knew coming in. Instead of giving us something new and conclusive, it's like they punted and played it safe, which is annoying when we had a good match going.

Bryan celebrates with the belt and Show doesn't look all that pleased.

Overall Rating: B-. Not a bad show and less of a throwaway one before the ending. I know I'm harping on that a lot but it really ticked me off. What's the point in doing that? Ok I'll drop it now because the rest of the show was pretty good. Nothing great, but there was nothing to complain about until the end. This show went by fast too, which was a good thing. Pretty good show until the annoying main event.

Results

Zack Ryder b. Cody Rhodes – Rough Ryder

Sheamus b. Miz – Brogue Kick

Kofi Kingston b. Primo – Trouble in Paradise

Dolph Ziggler vs. Daniel Bryan went to a no contest

Big Show/Daniel Bryan b. Dolph Ziggler/Jack Swagger – LeBell

Lock to Swagger

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EOTY Awards – Promo of the Year

Not what you might expect. I'm actually going with Cena's rap against the Rock. This did a few things. First and foremost, it made people laugh. This was a hilarious promo with great jokes and even some visuals like the pinwheel. Second, it showed that Cena could indeed hang with Rock on the mic. He got destroyed in Rock's promo but then came back and to me, exceeded him. The most important thing though is that it set the stage for the whole feud. We have a guy that is loud, making childish jokes and talking in a way he doesn't look comfortable with, and then we have John Cena. Cena has outclassed Rock the whole time in this and it hasn't been close, at least not to me.

Your thoughts/picks?

Impact Wrestling – December 22, 2011 – Tag Teams And Tim Tebow

Impact Wrestling

Date: December 22, 2011

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

We're back with week #2 of the wild card tournament but at least now we know who almost all of the wacky partners are. The show last week was pretty ok so hopefully they crank it up a bit more this week as the year comes to a close. We've got I think three more Impacts before the PPV where it's pretty likely that Jeff gets the title back. Oh and the Jarretts are gone at the moment. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps last week which is the norm now.

Here are Roode and Ray to open the show. Roode is in a suit and to be fair, he's rocking that thing. He says he loves Christmas and the fans can all thank him for the gifts they got last week. Sting and Hardy getting beaten up was great and all they needed were bows on them. Ray talks about how giving he is: he gives chicken bones to the homeless, he gives dollars to strippers and he gives whiskey to his cat.

Roode talks about learning that every action has a consequence. Lately he's learned that he's probably on the naughty lists of both Sting and Santa. He asks Sting to come out here and get his suspension over with because he needs time off for Christmas. Instead he gets Hardy. Don't worry about the suspension because in three weeks, Hardy is taking

the title. Tonight it's the two of them against Hardy and a partner of his choice. This would be a little more suspenseful if they hadn't mentioned this in the preview before the show. Of course it's Sting. Here he is and he has the insane face paint on again.

The main event tag is officially a street fight.

Wildcard Tag Tournament First Round: AJ Styles/Kazarian vs. Rob Van Dam/Christopher Daniels

And remember, the teams are RANDOM! I mean, no one would take rivals and put them against stable mates. That would be STUPID! Tenay says Fournite is officially defunct. Kaz vs. Van Dam to start us off. They hit the mat quickly and it's off to AJ. Daniels wants him but Van Dam says he's mine.

After some basic stuff it's back to Kaz who seems to have better chemistry with RVD. Monkey flip by Rob sets up a headlock by Kaz. Back to AJ and Van Dam goes to the corner. He rams into Daniels and that counts as a tag. Daniels comes in and misses AJ, allowing the tag to Kaz. Van Dam slaps Daniels into the Fade To Black for the pin at 5:18.

Rating: D+. Basic but fine here and that's all it needed to be. Thankfully they didn't push Van Dam and Daniels as a team that lucks its way into the second round. Either way, this was ok but it wasn't anything special. That goes for a lot of first round tournament matches most of the time though so there isn't much to complain about there.

Anthony Nese says he's awesome and can hang with anyone.

Zema Ion says he's pretty.

Zema Ion vs. Anthony Nese

This is the second match in the best of three series with Ion up 1-0. Ion has hairspray so you know he's a heel. The winner of this is in a four way against Aries, Kash and Sorensen. Ion

dives through the ropes to take Nese out with a dropkick before the bell. Back in Nese snaps off a rana for two. Cross body gets the same. Ion gets in a shot but Nese fights back and hits a Lionsault for two.

The American hits a German on the Filipino for two. Nese misses a springboard body block for two and Ion takes over again. Nese jumps from the mat to the top for a super rana for two. Ion hits a spinning facebuster but pulls Nese up like he did last week. Naturally it allows Nese to nip up into a rollup for the pin at 4:00.

Rating: C+. Not bad but the problem is the lack of any reason to care about these guys or the match they had. Nese is a generic face and Ion is a generic heel. The match was fine and they did some good stuff, but I've seen a match like this a thousand times and I've seen it better a few hundred times. That's the problem with these cruiserweight matches: it's REALLY hard to top them and when they're average, they look weak.

Madison Rayne is in a referee dress and says Karen put her in charge of the Knockouts.

Pope says he's there for people when they need him. What D-Von didn't get is that Pope is a better trainer than he is so let him train. He'll always be pimping too. D-Von vs. Pope at Genesis again. D-Von comes in and grabs him but one of his kids hits him in the back. Pope calls them his boys.

Eric Young and D-Von are on a date because they're in the wild card tournament together. One of their opponents is Shannon Moore and Eric locks up with a referee.

Here's Madison and she calls out Tara and Tessmacher. She shouts a lot and the fans chant what sounds like USA. Madison repeats that she's the head of the Knockouts which surprises Mike and Taz, even though she said it earlier. Her job is to destroy the Knockouts and she's starting with the two of them.

Their closeness makes her sick so they're fighting each other tonight and she's the referee.

Brooke Tessmacher vs. Tara

And it's a comedy match. They do the slowest wristlock this side of Delirious and Tara shouts ouchie. They trade some very weak covers and this is kind of amusing. The limited wrestling turns into talking and even the Impact Zone is silent. They finally get into a fight and Madison won't count due to reasons of waving. Madison shouts at them to hit someone so they hit her. And then the Tebow it. Ok then. It ran about 6 minutes but there wasn't exactly an ending point.

Rating: N/A. This wasn't exactly a wrestling match. I'm not sure what it was but the girls were hot so I'll let it go.

Sting and Hardy say they'll win.

Eric looks for a gift to give ODB and looks through the kitchen of the restaurant.

Here's Storm to FINALLY give us something interesting. He says that Angle is looking for him but Storm will either be in the bar or in the ring. Angle gave him a beating but Storm won in the end. He makes football references and drops Tebow's name. Angle pops up on the screen and is in Storm's hometown. He insults a woman and that's about it.

Ray says he and Roode will win.

Wildcard Tag Tournament First Round: Eric Young/ODB vs. Anarquia/Shannon Moore

Young vs. Anarquia to start us up and Eric dances a lot. Young locks up with the Mexican America chicks outside and then disrobes. Anarquia comes in and slams Eric. It's off to ODB and Moore bails. ODB kind of slams him and Eric hits a top rope elbow. A low blow by ODB gets the pin at 4:36.

Rating: F. What. Ever. Man. I'm so over Eric and his unfunny comedy but TNA insists we need to see it time after time on every show.

Matt Morgan and Crimson recap the tag tournament. They don't take it seriously it seems.

Angle beats up people in Tennessee. He pulls out a freaking cap gun and hits someone in the head with it. He superkicks a lot of them after standing them up in a line. Angle even throws the Christmas tree at someone. He challenges Storm for Genesis.

Bully Ray/Bobby Roode vs. Sting/Jeff Hardy

This is a street fight and they have a ton of time. I wonder if Sting vs. Ray is going to happen at Genesis. Probably not. Those two head to the floor and Roode takes over in the ring on Hardy. They go split screen for a bit but the painted guys clear the ring. STEREO DIVES take the heels out. Sting diving like that was pretty awesome. That takes us to a break.

Back with more violence and the bad guys in trouble. Ray hits Hardy with a kendo stick to the back and does the same to Sting. We get the dreaded cookie sheet and Ray takes over on Sting. Sting fights back and hits a superplex to take Ray down. He's showing off tonight. Roode comes in to beat down the guy with the full facepaint (Sting) but Sting comes back again. He loads up the splash but Ray hits him with part of a wooden sign to break it up.

Ray drops an elbow for two. Hardy hasn't been focused on in this match very much. Ray and Roode set for something but Sting ducks so Ray clotheslines Roode. Death Drop to Ray but Sting walks into a spinebuster. Hardy comes in and takes out Roode but Ray kicks his head off. Ray gets the table but Sting moves it before Hardy can go through it. He cleans house and hooks the Scorpion on Ray (who taps but it doesn't count) and puts Roode down with a Death Drop. Another table is set up and

Hardy splashes Roode through it for the pin at 18:20.

Rating: B. This knew that it was supposed to be an over the top and fun brawl and that's what it was. There wasn't really anything all that significant going on here but it did the job in giving Hardy the pin over Roode. Also it gave Sting a chance to look awesome as he's limited in the ring anymore and that's fine. Fun match and a good way to close the show.

Overall Rating: C-. I don't want to say this show was bad, because it really wasn't. It was however pretty meh. It came off a lot like Raw on Monday as a throwaway show, and for the most part I'm ok with that. However, stuff like the Knockouts and Eric Young got really old really fast. The main event was fun and there was kind of an energy to the show that helped it, but not one of their better episodes. Still though, it's a holiday kind of show so taking things less seriously might be a good idea.

Results

Kazarian/AJ Styles b. Rob Van Dam/Christopher Daniels – Fade To Black to Daniels

Anthony Nese b. Zema Ion – Rollup

Tara vs. Brooke Tessmacher went to a no contest

Eric Young/ODB b. Anarquia/Shannon Moore – Low blow to Anarquia

Jeff Hardy/Sting b. Robert Roode/Bully Ray – Splash through a table to Roode

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