

# Dynamite – February 24, 2021: The Early Slow Down

## Dynamite

Date: February 24, 2021

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

AEW had a pretty surprising headline earlier today as they announced the signing of Big Show Paul Wight, which is not something many people had on their Bingo cards. I'm not sure how much of a difference he is going to make around here but he seems a lot more like a signing for the sake of getting some attention than anything else. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

### Jon Moxley vs. Ryan Nemeth

Nemeth says he likes trying for the starring role and gets slapped off his feet in a hurry. Some knees to the ribs have Moxley staggered but he comes right back with a belly to back suplex. Another shot to the face sets up the Paradigm Shift to finish Nemeth at 2:45.

Post match Moxley sits in a chair and says he'll do anything to be World Champion again. What kind of images come to mind when someone says exploding barbed wire death match (Laughter?)? Maybe it's blood, carnage, Japanese wrestling magazines? Moxley talks about how he can't get enough of wrestling and while it's a trap from Kenny Omega and his boys, he just can't resist. He talks about how far he is willing to go to win the title back and promises to give us everything he has (which sounded like he is leaving, perhaps for paternity leave).

Video on Omega vs. Moxley.

Lance Archer and Rey Fenix respect each other but they both want to win the spot in the Revolution ladder match. Then Fenix calls him the worst partner he has ever had though and has to dodge a lot of violence.

We look back at the Inner Circle shoving Papa Buck last week.

The Young Bucks are here with their parents, who seem rather proud.

### Varsity Blonds vs. Team Taz

Brian Cage/Ricky Starks for Team Taz here with Taz on commentary. Pillman and Starks run the ropes to start and it's Pillman tripping him down to the floor. Back in and Pillman grabs a rollup for two but Air Pillman is knocked to the floor. Cage powerbombs him against the post and we take a break.

Back with Cage curling Pillman and tossing him down, allowing Starks to come back in for a running elbow in the corner. A right hand misses though and the hot tag brings in Garrison to pick up the pace. Garrison's belly to back faceplant gets two on Starks with Cage making the save. Air Pillman breaks up a sitout powerbomb but it's a spear to Garrison and a discus clothesline to Pillman. The drill Claw gives Cage the pin at 9:09.

**Rating:** C+. I liked this one a good bit as the Blonds were looking better than they have to date. The action was good and I can always go for a power vs. speed match. These guys had a pretty fun match here and they had Team Taz sweat a bit, which you might not have guessed in this spot.

Post match we get a video of a truck dragging a body bag. Sting is driving and Darby Allin is in the bag (in half Sting face paint). Back in the arena, here's Sting, with a body bag.

Tony thinks Allin might be in the bag and....it's actually Taz's son Hook. Allin ziplines into the ring with the skateboard to clean house. Sting gets in as well for some pretty bad stomping and the Stinger Splash to Cage.

We get a sitdown interview with Miro, Kip Sabian and Penelope Ford. They don't like what happened with Chuck Taylor and Orange Cassidy at the wedding. Miro likes Charles though and wants him to come back as the butler rather than following Cassidy. We get a note from Taylor and Cassidy, with the Y/N/Maybe (circle one), hugs and kisses. Miro tells Taylor to be a man and the match seems likely.

### Brandon Cutler vs. Jake Hager

Hager suplexes him down a few times to start and hits the Hager Bomb. Back up and Cutler manages to send him outside for the big flip dive, only to get caught in something like a powerslam back inside. One heck of a running clothesline finishes Cutler at 3:12.

**Rating:** C-. Nearly a total squash here with Hager barely getting touched outside of that one flip dive. Cutler isn't someone who feels like anything important so having him beaten up to make the Bucks mad isn't the worst idea. This worked out well enough, even if the match wasn't exactly competitive.

Post match the Inner Circle is out for the beatdown but the Young Bucks make the real save. The Bucks call out MJF and Chris Jericho, who pop up on the screen. They aren't wasting time coming to the ring...because they have beaten and bloodied Papa Buck. MJF and Jericho mock the Bucks' pose and run when the Bucks come in for the save.

We recap Cody Rhodes/Red Velvet vs. Shaquille O'Neal/Jade Cargill. I'm still not 100% sure why Cargill and O'Neal are a team or why they're going after Cody but I don't think you're exactly supposed to. Jim Ross and Excalibur talk about the match, which could be one heck of a mess.

## Isaiah Kassidy vs. Hangman Page

Matt Hardy and the Hybrid 2 are here with Kassidy. Page, who has made some new friends lately, slugs away at Kassidy to start and stomps him down in the corner, setting up the fall away slam. A hard clothesline drops Kassidy and Page kicks him out of the air to the floor. There's the slingshot dive to drop Kassidy again and a clothesline puts him over the barricade.

Hybrid 2 gets on the apron for a distraction and Hardy's cheating lets Kassidy get in a cheap shot. Cue the Dark Order to stooge on Matt, who is ejected. Kassidy grabs the armbar and we take a break. Back with Kassidy still working on the arm until Page gets in a shot to the face. The Buckshot Lariat is broken up so Page settles for a discus forearm and a near fall. Kassidy is back with an enziguri, only to get caught in a Death Valley Driver.

There's a brainbuster for two more on Kassidy, who is back with a posionrana for one. A cross armbreaker has Page in trouble and Kassidy snaps the arm over the rope. Back up and Kassidy tries a springboard but Page pulls it out of the air and hits a (one armed) Deadeye for the pin at 13:26.

**Rating:** C+. This was quite the lengthy match, though the action was good enough to work out. I'm not sure why Kassidy is getting to hang with Page this long but maybe the ring time will do him some good. The idea of Hardy vs. Page still doesn't interest me, but if it's a one off match then it should be ok.

Post match Hardy's voice comes over the speaker to talk about how Page made the wrong choice. Hardy appears with #5 and throws him off the stage.

Kenny Omega is building the Moxley Extermination Chamber, complete with pounding on metal himself. If you want something done, do it yourself.

Long video on the Women's #1 Contender tournament.

Women's #1 Contenders Eliminator Tournament Quarterfinals:  
Britt Baker vs. Nyla Rose

Baker gets tossed around to start so it's time to go to the back for some complaining. Back in and Rose hits the Samoan drop before trying to break the leg in the corner again. That doesn't work so Rose drops her hard with a gorilla press. They head outside with Baker kicking the arm against the barricade and we take a break. Back with Rose hitting a superplex but Baker manages a suplex of her own. Rose knocks her down again and goes to the corner but has to take Rebel out with a release Rock Bottom onto the apron.

Rose chokeslams Baker but has to knock Rebel into the corner. That sets up the Cannonball but Baker sends Rose into the exposed buckle (exposed during the break and shown when we came back) to set up Lockjaw. That's countered though and Rose plants her for two, only to have Baker pull her into Lockjaw again. That's broken up again so it's Beast Bomb...for two (possibly due to the banged up arm), with Rose being stunned. Another Beast Bomb finishes Baker at 12:41.

**Rating:** C. This was an awkward one as they tried to do a bit too much with Rebel and it didn't quite click. At the same time, and it's too early to actually get annoyed at this yet, but I'm really not all that interested in Rose. We've been there far too many times now and hopefully we don't have to see it again anytime soon.

Video on Jurassic Express vs. FTR/Tully Blanchard. FTR wants to fight them because they are so different, but they don't know what they are in for with Blanchard returning to the ring.

Here's what's coming in the next few weeks, including at Revolution.

## Lance Archer vs. Rey Fenix

For a spot in the Revolution latter match and Jake Roberts is here with Lance. Archer stalks him into the corner but Fenix snaps off a hurricanrana. Fenix manages to knock the monster to the floor for the big running flip suicide dive. Jake catches Fenix on top, so he jumps over Roberts and dives onto Archer instead. Archer throws him over the barricade and we take a break.

Back with Archer knocking him hard off the apron to the floor and looking rather pleased about the landing. Fenix gets sent hard into the barricade and then a toss suplex sends him flying inside. A kick to the ribs lets Fenix get up top for a top rope double stomp to the back of the head but Archer snaps off a release German suplex.

There's the rope walk moonsault for two on Fenix, who is whipped hard into the corner for a running clothesline. Archer charges into a raised boot in the corner though and Fenix's rope walk kick to the head puts the monster down. The rolling cutter connects and a Spanish Fly somehow connects for two more on Archer. A Pounce drops Fenix and there's the chokeslam for a rather close two. Archer is frustrated so he takes Fenix up top and plants him with the Black Out for the pin at 17:32.

**Rating:** B. I was betting on the time limit draw at the end but it was nice to see Archer get the monster win in the end. This was about the beast chasing its next meal and finally catching him in the end, which is a fine story to tell. They both did their thing rather well and it was a heck of a main event, especially with the longer time that they were given. Fenix is a heck of a star and it's great to see him getting a chance to shine on his own.

A bit of respect is shown to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This felt like they took their foot off of the gas before the big show next week and there is nothing

wrong with that. Next week is the show that matters with the big tag match and then Revolution is later in the same week. There was no need to hammer away with this week's show and thankfully they didn't try too hard. What we got was rather good (a few questionable choices aside) and I had a pretty easy time with the show.

## Results

Jon Moxley b. Ryan Nemeth – Paradigm Shift

Team Taz b. Varsity Blonds – Drill Claw to Pillman

Jake Hager b. Brandon Cutler – Running clothesline

Hangman Page b. Isaiah Kassidy – Deadeye

Nyla Rose b. Britt Baker – Beast Bomb

Lance Archer b. Rey Fenix – Black Out

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# Ring Of Honor TV – February

# 17, 2021: On The Good Side

## Ring of Honor

Date: February 17, 2021

Location: UMBC Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

I'm not sure what to expect from this show these days and I'm also not sure if that's a good or bad thing. The show has been far from terrible but there is something about it that feels inconsistent. Sometimes you get a good show but at times you get a show that leaves me counting the minutes until it's over. Let's get to it.

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

The Foundation gives Wheeler Yuta and Fred Yehi a fired up promo about bringing honor back. Tonight they're going to shake things up a bit by having parts of the Foundation on both sides of a six man. Everyone else leaves and Jay Lethal says he and Tracy Williams will start, which is cool with Williams, who reminds Jay what happened the last time they were in the ring together (Tracy won).

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay runs down the card.

Tony Deppen talks about how important Final Battle was for him because he has a newborn to provide for every day. He beat LSG to get to his TV Title shot against Dragon Lee and now he is going to do it again. They took different paths to get here but Deppen has the momentum here.

LSG talks about his journey starting fifteen years ago and he isn't letting the flavor of the month take him out of this company. He is here to hang with the best and he knows Deppen can't beat him again. LSG is Ring of Honor, but what about



Deppen?

### LSG vs. Tony Deppen

Deppen is getting this match due to fan response (part of Ring of Honor trying to listen to the people more). Going to the mat doesn't last long to start so they trade some quick rollups for a variety of results. They're on the floor for the slugout in a hurry before they go back inside, with LSG's O'Connor roll being kicked out to the apron. Deppen hits a triangle dropkick to the floor but LSG sends him hard into the barricade. Back in and LSG grabs a neck crank as we take a break.

We come back with LSG missing an elbow drop but nailing a knee to the jaw. Something like a Gory Stretch has Deppen in more trouble but he's right back with some slaps to the face. A basement dropkick sends LSG into the corner and Deppen gets two off some running knees in the corner. They slap it out until LSG hits Rock In Bye Baby (spinning faceplant) into a springboard spinning forearm for two.

A dropkick through the ropes rocks Deppen again but Deppen sweeps the leg from the apron. Back in and a brainbuster into a running knee gets two on LSG but the top rope double stomp misses. Some rollups give Deppen two each but LSG grabs a Gory Stretch...and flips Deppen forward into a sitout powerbomb (cool) for the pin at 11:57. Ian Riccaboni names it the Event Horizon and Caprice likes it.

**Rating:** C+. The ending was the big deal here, but what mattered more was the fact that I wasn't sure who was going to win until the end. You don't get that kind of a feeling very often and I was surprised when LSG won. Granted that might have been because I hadn't seen the finisher before and it was rather cool looking. Rather hard to believe that Deppen wasn't helping with the flip, but it looked great.

The Briscoes are staring at each other with Mark being annoyed

at Jay for going after EC3 instead of the Tag Team Titles. The whole thing is argued using a boat metaphor and...I think they make up?

Rush and Shane Taylor are ready for their World Title match in two weeks.

Jonathan Gresham/Tracy Williams/Fred Yehi vs. Jay Lethal/Wheeler Yuta/Rhett Titus

After an extended Code of Honor, Lethal and Williams start things off, as planned. The feeling out process begins until Williams takes him down into an armbar. They fight over half crabs with neither being able to get very far so Titus comes in to take Williams down. The mat grappling goes to another standoff so it's off to Yehi. Titus gets wrestled to the mat and bails over to the ropes, meaning Yuta comes in for some arm battling of their own.

With that broken up, Gresham comes in and is taken to the mat by the leg. Gresham's headscissors gets us to a standoff and Yuta's armbar sends Gresham to the rope. It's off to Lethal to face Gresham and they go straight to the mat as well. They spin around rather fast and that's good for another standoff with commentary sounding out of breath. Lethal cartwheels out of a headlock and another one sets up a basement dropkick to Gresham.

Titus comes in to work on the arm and hands it back to Lethal. That doesn't go so well for Titus as Lethal spears him down by mistake, allowing the hot tag to Yehi. A snap brainbuster gets two on Yuta, who has to go to the rope to break up the Koji Clutch. We take a break and come back with the Lethal Combination dropping Williams. Hail To The King gets two but Williams gets in a shot of his own for the double knockdown.

Gresham and Titus come in with Titus nailing a belly to belly for two. Gresham hands it back to Yehi, who is clotheslined into a jackknife rollup for two more. Everything breaks down

and Lethal has to save Titus from the Koji Clutch. There's the Lethal Injection to Gresham, who shoved Yehi out of the way since he isn't legal. Titus dropkicks Yehi down for the pin at 17:47.

**Rating:** B. They had an idea here and then executed it, which is all you could want them to do. There was something nice about having a much more technically sound match and that is the kind of thing that could turn into a big feud with someone down the line. Mixing the lineups up a bit here helped too as you can only do the same kind of match so many times. Good storytelling and solid action so I'm rather pleased.

A lot of handshakes end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This would be on the higher end of their shows since the return and that is great to see. Both matches worked and while I still don't need the minute and a half promos before the matches, they let some things build and had two good matches. Ring of Honor knows how to put together a good show but they need to work on their consistency. What we got here worked well and if they can even do most of this kind of thing again, they're going to be in a great place.

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# Big Show Is All Elite

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/breaking-big-show-paul-wight-signs-aew/>

I didn't see this one coming. This isn't going to be some kind of a game changer and no Wight isn't going to be the big focal point of the company. He's a name and can be funny on commentary, which is all he needs to be. This is about a headline and AEW did really well with it.

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## Major League Wrestling Fusion – February 17, 2021 (Filthy Island): The MLW Ultimatum

### **Fusion #122**

Date: February 17, 2021

Location: Filthy Island, Hawaii

Commentators: Dan Lambert, Tom Lawlor, Jared St. Laurent, Rich Bocchini

It's time for a special event as MLW offers their take on UFC's Fight Island. As long as we don't have to deal with another Fyre Fest joke, I'm all for trying something new, as MLW is getting weaker and weaker every show. The main event is a long awaited showdown between Low Ki and King Mo. Let's get to it.

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

We get a disclaimer that MLW assumes no liability on the show.

Tom Lawlor tells Dominic Garrini that there is a problem with catering (no), meaning there is no spam. Lawlor sends him down to the port and hands him a bottle of something. Garrini: "You want me to drown him?" Lawlor: "It's for you." Garrini stares into the camera.

Opening sequence.

Commentary welcomes us to the show and runs down the card. This could be a rather long night.

The ring, which has no ropes or ring skirts, is surrounded by trees and there are some people (Fans?) on a couch. Music is handled by a guy with a boom box. I've seen worse.

#### Mauna Loa vs. Dominic Garrini

Loa looks a bit like Blue Meanie (in a grass skirt but minus the blue) and Lambert calls Lawlor out for the low rent talent. Loa runs him over and hits a splash for an early two, sending Garrini out to the floor for a consultation with commentary. Back in and Garrini chokes him out at 39 seconds.

There is going to be a jungle fight later on between Savio Vega and Mil Muertes. In the jungle.

Los Parks are ready to defend the Tag Team Titles against Contra on March 3. LA Park also wants Alex Hammerstone's National Openweight Title.

Commentary previews the main event.

We look at the first Low Ki vs. King Mo fight.

Azteca Underground now has its own website.

The Dynasty isn't overly impressed with Hawaii but are ready to make it work.

We recap Salina de la Renta trying to buy out IWA from Savio Vega, who says no. Her bosses at Azteca Underground aren't happy and Mil Muertes is coming.

Commentary is scared of the Jungle Fight but Salina de la Renta has sent in a note. The boss of Azteca Underground promises blood will be spilled. It's signed El Jefe, which should make you rather interested if you're a Lucha Underground fan.

### Kevin Ku vs. Zenshi

Dominic Garrini is here with Ku...who is taken down by Zenshi diving out of a tree. Zenshi dropkicks him to the floor and ducks some kicks to the head back inside. A kick to the ribs slows Zenshi down and a half crab goes on. Since there are no ropes, Zenshi pulls himself to the post for the break instead. Ku stands on Zenshi's throat for a bit, only to have Zenshi come back with a quick rollup for two. They strike it out until Zenshi nails a Pele for two and follows with some more kicks to the head. Ku's half nelson suplex is countered with a backflip but a running cutter is countered into a dragon suplex to give Ku the pin at 4:59.

**Rating:** C. This was where the weird environment came into play and it might not have been for the best. Above all else it felt more like a fight than a match, which may be the idea of the show but it doesn't mean it works out so well. Not much to the match but you knew Team Filthy was going over here, as that's kind of the point of this week.

The Von Erichs can't be here tonight but they want Low Ki to win to show up Tom Lawlor. Maybe they'll show up anyway.

We go back to the jungle where Savio Vega yells at Salina de la Renta, only to get jumped by Mil Muertes. More on this later.

Next week: MLW Underground rather than Fusion.

TJP sits down with Alicia Atout and is tired of losing so many tag matches with Bu Ku Dao. He likes teaming with people but Dao has been dragging him down by not knowing what winning time is. No he isn't a bully because Dao can't carry his end. Alicia says Dao looks up to him, which TJP attributes to Dao being 4'11 (TJP: "Maybe 5'5 with the hair."). That's enough of the interview.

### Gringo Loco vs. Rocky Romero

Loco is listed as being "super over in Cancun." Romero throws his jacket to one of the "fans" on the couch and we're ready to go. Feeling out process to start and they go with the test of strength into the flipping exchange. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gives Loco two and we hit the double arm crank. Back up and Romero grabs a flying mare but Loco runs him over with a clothesline.

A leglock with an arm crank has Romero in trouble for all of five seconds and Loco's chops just fire Romero up. A running hurricanrana takes Loco to the floor but he's right back in to drop Romero onto the couch. The big dive knocks Romero and the couch over and sets up a reverse DDT for two back inside. Loco misses a cartwheel moonsault but he's fine enough to hit an enziguri. Romero grabs a Stunner on the arm and a tornado DDT gives Romero the pin at 8:50.

**Rating:** C. Romero is a guy I can never predict as sometimes he's rather good, sometimes he's rather awful and sometimes he's so completely average that I can barely bring myself to care about what he does. That was the case here, as he had a completely run of the mill match and I couldn't get into it. It certainly wasn't bad, but it was kind of there.

Back to the Jungle Fight, which is a bunch of walking and brawling...until Contra hacks the feed.

Contra doesn't like Injustice.

We look at more of Low Ki vs. King Mo.

The Von Erichs are diving to Filthy Island. Shouldn't that be boating?

Here's what's coming over the next few weeks.

More Muertes and Vega. This time they're choking and walking around until Muertes hits him with a crowbar. Salina says finish it and Muertes gets the pin. This was a big waste of time.

More Low Ki vs. King Mo.

Tom Lawlor gives the Dynasty ringside seats but Hammerstone wants Gatorade and Spam thrown in.

Here's the Top 10.

10. Jordan Oliver

9. Calvin Tankman

8. Myron Reed

7. Mil Muertes

6. Richard Holliday

5. Mads Krugger

4. Low Ki

3. Lio Rush

2. Tom Lawlor

1. Alex Hammerstone

King Mo vs. Low Ki

They go straight to the slugging in the clinch but Mo takes him down to the mat for a leglock. Another leglock has Ki in trouble but he reverses into a choke. Mo reaches for the non-existent ropes...and the referee says that's a tap (it was close) at 1:34.

Lambert is ticked and Team Filthy jumps Ki. The Von Erichs make the save



and Team Filthy is cleared out to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. I'm really not sure what to think of this show anymore. This was one of their unique ideas and it was just there. They did some weird hybrid of a UFC knockoff (not a bad thing) and MORE OF THE FYRE FEST NONSENSE so this was a mixture of disappointing and annoying. That has been the case for a long time now and that has me doing something I don't like to do.

During the show, a calendar was shown with the big matches coming on the next two shows. If MLW can't do something in there to make me more interested in the show, I think I'm dropping it from the schedule. It took me more than a few days to make myself care enough to watch this show and that shouldn't be the case. I could use the extra time to do shows I want to do so I'm giving them the next two weeks. Hopefully they fix it, but I'm not sure I can see it happening.

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# Monday Night Raw – February 22, 2021: Miz Tonk Man

[Monday Night Raw](#)

Date: February 22, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Samoa Joe, Byron Saxton

Elimination Chamber has come and gone and that means some heads have exploded as Miz is the new WWE Champion. I'm not sure where this is going, but as a long time Mizfit, I'm rather pleased with everything that happened. If nothing else, it means that we are going to be free of the Money in the Bank briefcase for at least three months. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last night's main event with Drew McIntyre winning the Elimination Chamber and Miz cashing in to win the title.

It's time for MizTV, Championship Edition, with all kinds of pyro and balloons. Miz is VERY pleased with having the title back because he is the star that stayed. Want to see Batista? Go watch a buddy cop movie. John Cena? He's doing a commercial. Miz is a bigger star than all of them, including Edge. If Edge is playing high stakes poker, this title is Miz's royal flush. Miz is holding this title because he deserves it...and here's the Hurt Business (with Bobby Lashley in a light pink suit) to interrupt.

MVP talks about how Miz omitted Lashley's involvement but Miz says he was ready to get to that. That's not good enough for MVP, because there was a deal last night: Miz gets the title and Lashley gets the first title shot. Miz says that's true, but Miz never said when he gets the title shot. There just isn't time right now, so Lashley grabs him by the tie and says Miz has one more hour. If Miz makes the wrong decision, he's going to be in a new reality series called "How Bobby Lashley Sent Me To The Emergency Room." Either way, Lashley is getting that title and it's going to be awesome.

Riddle comes up to the Lucha House Party and thanks them for

having his back to get to the title. They're a bit worried about him facing John Morrison tonight but no worries because Riddle has...a scooter!

Back with a countdown clock giving Miz about 43 minutes to answer Lashley, because saying "until the top of the hour" was asking too much of Lashley.

### Riddle vs. John Morrison

Non-title. Morrison starts fast with a leg lariat but gets pulled into a quickly broken figure four necklock. Morrison's kick to the head is countered into an ankle lock but that's broken up in a hurry as well. Riddle's gutwrench suplex gets two but another kick to the head sends Riddle outside.

A corkscrew dive drops Riddle again, only to have him come back with a fisherman's buster onto the apron. We take a break and come back with Riddle kicking him to the floor and hitting a springboard Floating Bro for the big crash. Back in and Morrison runs up the corner for a super Spanish Fly and a near fall. Riddle doesn't seem to mind and hits the Bro Derek for the pin at 11:07.

**Rating:** C+. This was better than I was expecting with the two showing some nice chemistry. I'm not sure why they didn't let this be a title match so Riddle could get a defense under his belt but it's not like it matters very much. Riddle could be champion for a long time to come and this was a good way to get things started.

We look at Bad Bunny performing on Saturday Night Live with the 24/7 Title.

Bad Bunny and Damien Priest talk about how great things have been but see R-Truth hiding near a referee. Truth thinks that it's Bugs Bunny and was just trying to get an autograph. Priest: "His name is BAD Bunny." Truth: "Oh...my bad....Bunny." Truth runs off.

Miz appeals to Adam Pearce, who sympathizes but says the WWE Champion should be ready to face all challengers. The clock is ticking, so Miz pulls out his phone.

### New Day vs. Retribution

Mace and T-Bar for the team here with Reckoning, Slapjack and Mustafa Ali in their corner. T-Bar hammers Woods down to start so it's off to Kofi, who gets planted down with ease. It's off to Mace for two off a big boot and Woods is knocked off the apron. A double sitout chokeslam crushes Kofi but Ali wants more. Woods manages to low bridge T-Bar and Trouble in Paradise sends Mace outside as well. Back in and another Trouble in Paradise finishes T-Bar at 2:50.

Post match Ali yells at Retribution and asks how much longer he has to deal with these failures. He carried the team on his back and they have failed over and over again. Ali storms off.

Here's Adam Pearce to bring out Lashley (in gear) and MVP, followed by Miz (in his suit) and John Morrison. Miz says he needs more time to make a decision because so many people want their chance. MVP doesn't want to hear it but Miz asks for a week. Cue Braun Strowman to say he deserves a shot but Pearce and Shane McMahon have something against him. He is far more "clarified" to face Miz than Lashley, which is all the opening Miz needs to try and stir the pot.

MVP isn't having that but here's Shane McMahon to interrupt. Shane says last night was about former WWE Champions rather than Universal Champions but Strowman says all of that sucks. He wants his match tonight but Shane thinks that idea sucks. Strowman says he wants to face Lashley tonight then, so Shane makes the match and let's sweeten the pot a bit: if Strowman wins, next week's title match is a triple threat. Reality sets in on Miz in a hurry but Strowman yells at Shane, allowing Lashley to take out Strowman's knee.

### Hurt Business vs. Lucha House Party

Non-title tornado tag with MVP on commentary. Shelton and Cedric take over to start, including a hard basement dropkick to Dorado's back. Dorado gets knocked out of the air and then out to the floor, leaving Metalik to get double teamed. Metalik's comeback is countered with a powerbomb for two as Dorado makes the save.

Dorado manages to get in some right hands to the face for a breaker and it's a tornado DDT into a top rope splash for two on Alexander. MVP yells at Shelton as Alexander fights back a bit. Dorado catches him on top with a super hurricanrana but (after an unnecessary tag) Metalik misses a top rope double stomp. Alexander knees Dorado down though and Paydirt gives Shelton the pin at 5:53.

**Rating:** C-. I'm not sure what the point of this one was as the Hurt Business didn't give up much of anything save for a quick Lucha flurry. That being said, it was really nice to not have the champs not fighting among themselves for a change. I have no idea why they needed to have issues in advance so it was quite the relief to see it work for once.

We look back at Damien Priest helping Bad Bunny win the 24/7 Title last week.

#### Damien Priest vs. Angel Garza

Bad Bunny is here with Priest. Garza runs straight at him and gets his head taken off with a clothesline for two. Some strikes in the corner rock Garza but he's back with his own clothesline. Garza TAKES OFF HIS PANTS and yells at Bunny before slapping on a camel clutch. Priest fights up and elbows Garza's right hand away, setting up a kick to the back of the head.

Another kick doesn't get to launch as Garza collapses so Priest hits the running elbow in the corner. The Broken Arrow gets two but Garza is back with a hard running clothesline to the floor. Garza taunts Bunny so Priest kicks him in the face. The top rope spinwheel kick sets up Hit The Lights for the pin at 6:14.

**Rating:** C-. Kind of dull here but Priest got the win with his finisher. There's a cool aura to Priest and WWE is smart to put him in such a high

profile spot. Yes Bunny is the important part here, but Priest is likely to be around a lot longer and WWE is giving him a nice platform to get noticed.

Post match the menagerie of numskulls comes out to go after the 24/7 Title but Bunny sends Drew Gulak over the top.

Rhea Ripley is still coming.

Randy Orton says he has not failed very much in his career but lately he has not been able to shake the Fiend. Even after burning him alive at TLC (which we see), the Fiend and Alexa Bliss have been costing him, including last week when Bliss cost him the chance to be the last entrant in the Elimination Chamber. Orton has a Bliss problem and, after seeing her promising to bring back the Fiend last week....he chokes on a bunch of black goo coming out of his mouth.

#### Shayna Baszler/Nia Jax vs. Asuka/Charlotte

Non-title. Asuka starts fast with an Octopus on Shayna, who reverses into a Stretch Muffler. That's reversed into an armbar which is broken as well so it's off to Charlotte to strike away at Jax. Everything breaks down with Jax and Baszler being knocked outside as we take a break. Back with Shayna kicking Asuka down and stepping on her face. The big stomp to the arm misses though and Asuka gets over for the tag to Charlotte. Everything breaks down and Charlotte gets to clean house with a big boot to Shayna but Jax powerbombs her down for two.

The chinlock goes on before Baszler comes in to work on the arm. That doesn't last long so Jax comes back in, allowing Charlotte to hit a weird looking hurricanrana into the corner. The Figure Four has Baszler in trouble but Jax makes the save with the legdrop. Charlotte gets over to Asuka to start cleaning house but the Asuka Lock is broken up by Charlotte's missed big boot. Jax drops the leg for the pin at 12:31.

**Rating:** D+. I wasn't feeling this one whatsoever as it was awkward in multiple parts and felt like they were in different books. I'm not sure why Charlotte kicking Asuka in the face by mistake is supposed to be some big moment, but WWE has a history of thinking Charlotte is a bit more

important than most others do. Pretty off match and hopefully it's the last time we have to see it.

Post match Asuka isn't pleased and Charlotte walks off. That would seem to be a stake in the heart of the partnership after...uh...about two months.

### Sheamus vs. Jeff Hardy

Sheamus knocks him off the ropes to start and we hit the early armbar. That's broken up with an armdrag to the floor and a dropkick through the ropes has Sheamus in trouble. Hardy hits a dive and we take a break. Back with Sheamus hitting a trio of Irish Curses for two and pounding the chest with forearms.

Hardy fights up and nails the Whisper in the Wind and a top rope splash (rather than the Swanton) gets two. There's the Twist of Fate but Hardy takes a good while getting up top, meaning the Swanton can't launch. White Noise is countered but Sheamus misses the Brogue Kick as well. The second one connects though and Hardy is done at 10:15.

**Rating:** C. The Sheamus push continues and I'm not sure where this is going at the moment. In theory he should be moving towards Sheamus getting to face Drew McIntyre in some big match but I'm not sure what that is going to be. Hopefully they do something with it, as the build has been pretty good so far.

Charlotte is with Ric Flair in the back and says she can't do this anymore. She can't keep focusing on Ric because it is affecting her career. Last week he was out there pretending the baby was his and it's costing them their legacy. She tells him to go home but Ric says that he never said it was his baby and he saw potential in Lacey. Charlotte: "You see potential in a lot of blondes."

Flair talks about how he had a bit of a hand in making Charlotte what she is today and wanting to expand their brand. Charlotte says Ric just wants to be the Nature Boy and all he cares about is himself, leaving him rather sad. I'm sick of this story, but they absolutely nailed the emotions here and Flair's explanation did make sense.

### Naomi/Lana vs. Mandy Rose/Dana Brooke

Brooke gets whipped into a big boot to start and it's quickly off to Mandy. Lana comes in for a few kicks and a double X Factor finishes for Naomi at 1:31. Is there a reason Mandy and Dana are a team other than to heat up the next thrown together #1 contenders to the Tag Team Titles?

### Ricochet vs. AJ Styles

AJ starts fast and blocks a kick in the corner to send Ricochet face first into the mat. Some kicks to the head look to set up the Styles Clash but Ricochet backdrops out. A kick to the head rocks AJ but he knees Ricochet hard in the face. The Styles Clash finishes Ricochet at 3:49.

**Rating:** C. This would be your "well that happened" moment of the show. I'm assuming this was a way to kill some time so Lashley vs. Strowman doesn't have to go as long and also reheat AJ a bit after last night. I'm not sure how much reheating you need after finishing runner up to the WWE Champion inside the Elimination Chamber, but at least Ricochet got pinned again.

Post match Omos chokeslams Ricochet. Well chokedrops to be more accurate but close enough.

Braun Strowman scares Miz and John Morrison.

### Braun Strowman vs. Bobby Lashley

If Strowman wins, next week's title match is a triple threat. Miz is on commentary as Strowman runs Lashley over to start. Lashley is sent outside but avoids a charge into the steps. Back in and Strowman counters the Hurt Lock and hits the running powerslam for a near fall. Lashley manages a heck of a spinebuster for two and then cuts Strowman down with the spear for the pin at 3:15.

**Rating:** C. They were very smart to keep this short because these two could have gotten in trouble going long. I'm rather surprised by the result as it's not often that the win and in stipulation doesn't work. The title match next week should be good, if nothing else for seeing how



many ways there are to go.

Post match Lashley puts Strowman in the Hurt Lock so Miz comes in with the title...and gets planted with a spinebuster. Lashley picks up the title and poses to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was a weird show as they had a lot of things going on but at the same time there was an energy here that helped a bit. You can tell that things are going to start happening in the near future and that's a good thing. I'm curious to see where things are going and a lot of that is due to the lack of Drew McIntyre. You know he isn't going to be gone long and there is a good chance he'll be involved in the main event. I want to see where these things are going and that's a nice feeling. Some of that is due to Miz Tonk Man and that's a nice change of pace after some strong McIntyre reigns.

## Results

Riddle b. John Morrison – Bro Derek

New Day b. Retribution – Trouble in Paradise to T-Bar

Hurt Business b. Lucha House Party – Paydirt to Dorado

Damien Priest b. Angel Garza – Hit The Lights

Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler b. Charlotte/Asuka – Legdrop to Asuka

Sheamus b. Jeff Hardy – Brogue Kick

AJ Styles b. Ricochet – Styles Clash

Naomi/Lana b. Mandy Rose/Dana Brooke – Double X Factor to Rose

Bobby Lashley b. Braun Strowman – Spear

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## **Regarding The Comments (The Jay H. Pandemic Gag)**

I'm not wild on doing things like this but it's something I need to do. As funny as the bit was/is, I'm going to have to put an end to it. The whole thing completely dominates the comments on too many reviews and multiple people have complained to me about it. I 1000% appreciate the creativity and effort put into them, but it needs to come to an end. While I absolutely will not ban anyone from the comments for something like this, I'll be deleting them if the joke keeps going.

Please don't do these anymore, as while they are funny, they seem to be alienating readers who have nothing to do with it and I can't have that happening.

KB

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

## Smackdown

Date: September 22, 2006

Location: Bell Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Attendance: 13,500

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

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

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

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

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

## William Regal/Finlay vs. Batista/Bobby Lashley

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Matt Hardy vs. Gregory Helms

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

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

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

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

Miz promises to win his next match.

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

### Miz vs. Funaki

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

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

Video on the Marine.

### Rey Mysterio vs. Chavo Guerrero

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

pin.

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

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

Video on Batista visiting the Philippines.

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

### Sylvan vs. Tatanka

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

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

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

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

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

### King Booker vs. Undertaker

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### **ECW on Sci Fi**

Date: September 19, 2006

Location: DCU Arena, Worcester, Massachusetts

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

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

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

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

Opening sequence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Kevin Thorn vs. Balls Mahoney

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

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

### Shannon Moore vs. CM Punk

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

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

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

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

Rene Dupree brags about beating Balls Mahoney last week.

Video on John Cena in the Marine. Again.

### Rob Van Dam vs. King Booker

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

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

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

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

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

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# Elimination Chamber 2021 Preview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

nice for a change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

that's all it needs to be.

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

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

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

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

### Overall Thoughts

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



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

## **Impact Wrestling**

Date: February 16, 2021

Location: Skyway Studios, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: D'Lo Brown, Matt Striker

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

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

We open with a No Surrender recap.

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

Opening sequence.

### X-Division Title: Josh Alexander vs. TJP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Hernandez vs. Matt Cardona

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

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

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

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

Video on FinJuice.

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

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

Reno Scum vs. FinJuice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Tenille Dashwood vs. Nevaeh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here's what's coming next week.

### Moose vs. Tommy Dreamer

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Results

TJP b. Josh Alexander – Mamba Splash

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

Matt Cardona b. Hernandez – Radio Silence

FinJuice b. Reno Scum – PowerPlex to Thornstowe

Tenille Dashwood b. Nevaeh – Spotlight Kick

Moose b. Tommy Dreamer – Spear

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