

# Turning Point 2024: Thanks? I Guess?

## Turning Point 2024

Date: November 29, 2024

Location: Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

It's the Thanksgiving week special, though the card is only so good. They're coming off the biggest show of the year with Bound for Glory so this is going to be something of a downgrade. The main event will see Nic Nemeth defending the World Title against Eddie Edwards, plus we have the annual turkey suit match because tradition. Let's get to it.

This show is taking place as part of WrestleCade, a wrestling fan convention, though the venue is rather dim and doesn't look very big.

## Countdown Show: Rosemary vs. Savannah Evans vs. Xia Brookside

They circle each other to start until Rosemary hits Evans in the face. Rosemary's quick rollup on Brookside annoys Evans but they get together to clothesline Brookside. The alliance is as short lived as you would imagine and Rosemary is sent outside, leaving Brookside to drop Evans. Brookside's dive is pulled out of the air and Evans drops a leg, with Rosemary making the save.

Evans clotheslines Rosemary and grabs a fisherman's suplex for two, with Brookside making the save. Back up and Rosemary slugs away at Evans but Brookside is back in to hit some running shots in the corners. Evans kicks Rosemary in the face and gets Codebreakered by Brookside. The Brooksey Bomb takes Evans down but Rosemary spears Brookside for the pin at 9:14.

**Rating:** C+. They were doing a nice job of keeping things moving here and Rosemary stealing the win is a good way to go. Rosemary needs to win a few matches to rebuild herself up and this was a fine start. Evans felt like a monster and Brookside was keeping things moving, making this a nice choice for an opener. If nothing else, they were in and out in less than ten minutes, which is as long as a pre-show match needs to go. Get in, let the fans have some fun, get out.

The opening video is a quick montage of what is coming on the show.

### Mike Santana vs. Frankie Kazarian

Kazarian armdrags him down to start so Santana comes back with a wristlock. An exchange of armdrags sets up a springboard moonsault to drop Kazarian and they go to the floor for a breather. Santana scores with a superkick but Kazarian gets in the Fameasser over the middle rope.

Back in and Kazarian grabs a short arm scissors but Santana grabs a belly to back suplex. They go to the apron, where Kazarian hits a slingshot DDT to knock him silly. Back in again and the springboard spinning legdrop gives Kazarian two but it's too early for the chickenwing. Santana catches him on top though and grabs a belly to belly superplex to leave both of them down.

A rolling cutter gives Santana two and something like a Death Valley Driver gets the same. Santana grabs a hanging twisting neckbreaker for two more but Kazarian is back with a slingshot cutter for two more. Kazarian goes for the leg, only to walk into Spin The Block for the pin at 12:29.

**Rating:** B-. Nice opening match here with Santana continuing his rise up the company. At this rate it wouldn't surprise me to see him in the World Title scene sooner than later, as there are only so many things left for him to do. That being said, Kazarian seems destined to try to steal the title sooner

or later, and that could delay Santana that much more.

We run down the card.

The System promises a big night.

Joe Hendry vs. Eric Young vs. Hammerstone vs. Rhino vs. Brian Myers vs. John Skyler

This is the Turkey Bowl match, meaning whoever takes the fall has to wear a turkey suit, and yes this is the best they have for Hendry at the moment. The brawl starts fast until Skyler and Hendry are left alone in the ring. Hendry takes over without much effort and gets two off the delayed suplex.

Rhino and Myers take their place but it's quickly off to Young to work on Hammerstone's leg. Skyler and Myers take over on Young and Hammerstone joins in, only for Rhino to hit a Tower Of Doom to leave everyone down. Henry cleans house with clotheslines, followed by a fall away slam to Hammerstone. The parade of finishers is capped off by Myers charging into the Standing Ovation to give Hendry the pin at 8:20.

**Rating:** C+. I'm still trying to get my mind around the idea that there was nothing else for Hendry to do on this show. This was little more than a goofy match designed for the post match comedy spot and I was expecting a bit more for the most popular star in the company. But why push the popular star when you can, you know, not? Other than that, this was what you would expect from six people fighting for eight minutes with no tags, as no one really got to stand out.

Post match Myers doesn't want to put on the suit so the good guys beat him up and half put it on him.

Rosemary is happy with her win but wants more. Like the Knockouts Title.

X-Division Title: Laredo Kid vs. Moose

Moose is defending and has Alisha Edwards with him. Kid strikes away to start but his springboard is shoved to the floor for a big crash. Moose sends him into the barricade and goes traditionally evil by going after the mask back inside. Kid gets tied in the Tree of Woe for some choking but it's too early for the spear.

A hurricanrana just annoys Moose, who plants him with a release Rock Bottom. Moose charges into a boot in the corner though and a missile dropkick sends him outside. There's the big dive, setting up the super Spanish Fly for two back inside. The 450 hits knees though and a pair of spears retains Moose's title at 8:23.

**Rating:** C+. There were a few nice spots here but for the most part, this was Moose shrugging off anything Kid threw at him and winning with raw power. There is a good chance that we'll be seeing that in Moose's title defenses for a long time to come and it's not a bad idea. Moose mauling the division until someone is built up to take the title isn't a bad idea, though it might take some time to really get going.

We recap Josh Alexander vs. Steve Maclin. Alexander has driven Maclin crazy for over a year now and has since turned evil, even zip tying Maclin during their match at Bound For Glory. Tonight it's No DQ, with Maclin going a bit nuts in his quest for revenge.

### Steve Maclin vs. Josh Alexander

They slug it out to start with Maclin clotheslining him to the floor, setting up the Scud to drop him again. Alexander gets sent into various things on the floor and it's already time for a table. They fight on the apron but neither can go through the table so Alexander rolls the German suplexes back inside. Maclin grabs one of his own, only to be sent hard into the post.

The fight heads back to the floor, where Maclin grabs a quick

Death Valley Driver through a table leaned against the apron. More weapons are thrown in, with some trashcan lid shots staggering Alexander. Back in and Alexander grabs the ankle lock but Maclin breaks it up with more trashcan lid shots.

Alexander hits him with the rest of the trashcan but takes too long loading up a door. Maclin dropkicks the door into his face and hits a Cactus Elbow off the apron to crush the door onto Alexander. Alexander is right back up and goes after the leg before grabbing some chairs. The piledriver through the chairs is blocked and Maclin hits an Alabama Slam through the chairs instead. The KIA is blocked so Maclin settles for a running knee into a chair into Alexander's head.

Back up and Alexander torture rack bombs him over the top and through the table at ringside for a huge crash. Maclin rolls out of the ankle lock and puts Alexander in the Tree of Woe for three straight spears. The KIA connects...but Maclin pulls him up at two. Instead Maclin throws in a bag of shell cases, earning himself a low blow to cut him off. A super C4 Spike is broken up and Maclin hits a super KIA onto the casings for the win at 23:44.

**Rating:** B+. These guys beat each other up pretty badly and if Alexander had sold some of the big shots a bit more, this would have been even better. What mattered here was the match feeling like a battle between two people who couldn't stand each other. Maclin was obsessed with winning and pushed his way forward until Alexander couldn't survive any longer. Best match on the show by a good while so far.

Video on Chris Bey.

Ace Austin/Hardys vs. Zachary Wentz/Kushida/???

Wentz and Kushida were supposed to team with Trey Miguel, who isn't here due to travel issues. Therefore the replacement is...Matt Riddle, making his TNA debut. For the sake of simplicity, I'll refer to Matt Hardy as "Matt" and Matt Riddle

as "Riddle". Wentz and Austin start things off and go to the mat to limited success, meaning it's an exchange of armdrags.

Jeff comes in but Matt follows him off a blind tag to take over on Wentz. That's broken up as Wentz goes after the arm, allowing Kushida to come in for a surfboard. Matt gets out and hands it off to Austin to work on Kushida's arm for a change. Riddle comes in to roll some gutwrench suplexes before it's quickly back to Wentz, who gets dropkicked in the back.

Everything breaks down and Riddle gets to clean house, with a knee to the face getting two on Austin. Back up and Austin hands it off to Jeff to pick up the pace, including the Whisper In The Wind. Everything breaks down again and we get the Jeff vs. Riddle slugout. A Canadian Destroyer drops Riddle and it's the Plot Twist into the Swanton to finish Kushida at 16:00.

**Rating:** B-. The match was fast paced and entertaining, though this was mainly about getting Riddle in a TNA ring. I'm guessing he was there as part of WrestleCade and was brought in as a result, though if TNA can get him around more often, the star power would help. For now though, it was a nice one off match, with the action keeping the interest going.

#### Knockouts Title: Jordynne Grace vs. Masha Slamovich

Slamovich is defending in a 2/3 falls match after they've traded wins. Feeling out process to start with some armdrags not getting either of them anywhere. Grace's spinebuster gets two but Slamovich drops her throat first onto the ropes. Some hair mares send Grace outside and they go to the apron to slug it out. Grace is right back with a package piledriver on the apron and Slamovich needs a breather on the floor.

They fight over a piledriver on the floor, with Grace getting dropped on her head...but Slamovich breaks up the count. Back in and Slamovich gets two (yeah still way too soon after being dropped on padless concrete) so Grace slugs away but can't get

the MuscleBuster. Instead they trade rollups, with Grace getting the first fall at 11:14.

Slamovich is right back up to strike away before cranking on both arms to put Grace in trouble. That's reversed into a full nelson and they fight over a Vertebreaker. Slamovich gets a rear naked choke, which is reversed into the Vertebreaker for two. A springboard DDT into a guillotine choke has Grace in trouble but she World's Strongest Slams her way to freedom.

The Vader Bomb connects but Slamovich grabs a small package to tie it up at 17:40 total. The brawl is on as Rosemary comes out to watch. Slamovich gets the better of the strike off and hits a running knee into a piledriver into a package piledriver to finally retain the title at 19:41.

**Rating:** B. Much like the No DQ match, this was rather good but could have been better without some of the fairly ridiculous selling issues. Again, if someone is piledriven on the exposed concrete, they shouldn't be up and winning a fall just a few minutes later. That kind of stuff drives me nuts but thankfully it didn't ruin the match, which felt like a major struggle between two of the biggest stars in the division. Rosemary is waiting on Slamovich and that takes things into a different direction, but it's going to be difficult to top this.

We recap Nic Nemeth defending the World Title against Eddie Edwards, who pinned him in a tag match to set this up.

### TNA World Title: Nic Nemeth vs. Eddie Edwards

Edwards, with Alisha Edwards, is challenging. They lock up against the ropes to start and that's an early standoff. Nemeth's rollup sends Edwards out to the floor as things reset a bit. Back in and Nemeth grabs a headlock but gets sent face first into the buckle. Alisha gets in some choking from the floor, with Edwards adding a chop that has Nemeth slapping the mat.

Nemeth kicks him down and drops the rapid fire elbows but Alisha offers a distraction, allowing Edwards to send things outside. That's broken up as well and Nemeth drops a top rope elbow for two back inside. A backbreaker cuts Nemeth down and Edwards starts in on the back, with the near fall offering some frustration.

They run the ropes and a double clothesline leaves both of them down for a breather. Nemeth slugs away so Alisha grabs the boot, only to get caught and ejected. Back up and Nemeth gets in a Thesz press and hammers away but Edwards' Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. The Backpack Stunner connects for two more but Nemeth is back with a Fameasser. Alisha is back (total disrespect for the referee) and Edwards gets in a belt shot for two.

The Boston Knee Party gets two more but the Diehard Driver is countered into the Danger Zone for another near fall. Back up and a Cactus Clothesline sends both of them outside, so here is Brian Myers, in turkey suit, and loads up a ring on his finger (with the referee watching all of this). Cue John Layfield for the Clothesline From JBL to Myers, leaving Nemeth to hit a superkick into the Danger Zone to retain at 22:03.

**Rating:** B. I'm not sure this was designed to feel like a major threat to Nemeth as Edwards isn't someone who is going to give him much of a run for his money. The interference helped a bit but the JBL stuff is weird. It doesn't feel so much like any kind of a turn as he was evening the odds, but at the same time, you don't bring in JBL as some kind of a guardian angel. Anyway, good enough main event, though Nemeth is going to need a top challenger sooner than later.

**Overall Rating:** B. The show was entertaining and had a nice string of matches, which makes up for it feeling like a pretty low level show. The Hendry stuff continues to be annoying, as he almost has to be getting back into the World Title picture around Genesis at the latest. Other than that, Maclin vs.

Alexander was good and the Knockouts Title match was very hard hitting, which was enough to make this worth a look. It might not be an instant classic, but it's a nice addition to a holiday weekend.

### Results

Rosemary b. Xia Brookside and Savannah Evans – Spear to Brookside

Mike Santana b. Frankie Kazarian – Spin The Block

Joe Hendry b. Eric Young, Hammerstone, Rhino, Brian Myers and John Skyler – Standing Ovation to Myers

Moose b. Brian Myers – Spear

Steve Maclin b. Josh Alexander – Super KIA

Hardys/Ace Austin b. Matt Riddle/Zachary Wentz/Kushida – Swanton to Kushida

Masha Slamovich b. Jordynne Grace 2-1

Nic Nemeth b. Eddie Edwards – Danger Zone

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[Survivor Series 2024](#)

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WRESTLING RUMORS: Jade Cargill's Injury Status May Be Worse Than Expected.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-jade-cargills-injury-status-may-be-worse-than-expected/>

Him? Interesting Name Emerges As Early Favorite For Men's Royal Rumble Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/him-interesting-name-emerges-as-early-favorite-for-mens-royal-rumble-match/>

Still Working: Pair Of Backstage Updates On CM Punk's WWE Return And Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/still-working-pair-of-backstage-updates-on-cm-punks-wwe-return-and-status/>

Still No: Latest Update On AEW/Ricky Starks Issues, Pulled From Upcoming Events.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/still-no-latest-update-on-aew-ricky-starks-issues-pulled-from-upcoming-events/>

Missing Monster? Update On Oba Femi's NXT Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/missing-monster-update-on-oba-femis-nxt-status/>

WATCH: Eric Bischoff Makes Surprise NXT Appearance, Set For Next Week.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-eric-bischoff-makes-surprise-nxt-appearance-set-for-next-week/>

WATCH: Surprise Return Takes Place On NXT After Lengthy Injury Absence.

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WATCH: An Angry Shawn Michaels Gets Physical This Week On NXT.

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Star Power: Roman Reigns Set For Major Upcoming WWE Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/star-power-roman-reigns-set-for-major-upcoming-wwe-event/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Update On The Original Bloodline's Future After WWE Survivor Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-update-on-the-original-bloodlines-future-after-wwe-survivor-series/>

You Know Him: Update On Adam Copeland's Injury Status, Return To AEW TV.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/you-know-him-update-on-a-dam-copelands-injury-status-return-to-aew-tv/>

Hang It Up? Roman Reigns Talks Retirement Plans, Why He Keeps Wrestling.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hang-it-up-roman-reigns-talks-retirement-plans-why-he-keeps-wrestling/>

Say What? Paul Heyman Interesting Response When Asked About Brock Lesnar.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/say-what-paul-heyman-interesting-response-when-asked-about-brock-lesnar/>

It's A Family Thing: Karrion Kross Threatens Wyatt Sicks, Reveals Message Bray Wyatt Sent Him.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/its-a-family-thing-karrion-kross-threatens-wyatt-sicks-reveals-message-bray-wyatt-sent-him/>

Old School: WWE Legend Set For Saturday Night's Main Event, Theme Of The Show.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/old-school-wwe-legend-set-for-saturday-nights-main-event-theme-of-the-show/>

Still On It: Injury Update On AEW's Eddie Kingston.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/still-on-it-injury-update-on-aews-eddie-kingston/>

Wait What? Major Injury Update On Jade Cargill, Reportedly NOT Hurt.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wait-what-major-injury-update-on-jade-cargill-reportedly-not-hurt/>

Getting Better: Update On Alexa Bliss' Health Status, Return To WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/getting-better-update-on-alexa-bliss-health-status-return-to-wwe/>

Back At It? Update On Drew McIntyre's Return To WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/back-at-it-update-on-drew-mcintyres-return-to-wwe/>

You Can See Him: Update On John Cena's Retirement Tour, WWE's Plan For The Year.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/you-can-see-him-update-on-john-cenas-retirement-tour-wwes-plan-for-the-year/>

She's In: WWE Officially Names Jade Cargill's WarGames Replacement.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-in-wwe-officially-names-jade-cargills-wargames-replacement/>

WATCH: Matt Riddle Makes Surprise TNA Debut At Turning Point.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-matt-riddle-makes-surprise-tna-debut-at-turning-point/>

He Would Know: Paul Heyman Offers Special Praise For The Bloodline Storyline.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/he-would-know-paul-heyman-offers-special-praise-for-the-bloodline-storyline/>

Dropped Off? Update On Carmella's Injury Status, Possible WWE

Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/dropped-off-update-on-carrellas-injury-status-possible-wwe-return/>

That's Great: WWE Couple Welcomes Thanksgiving Baby (And He's Adorable).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-great-wwe-couple-welcomes-thanksgiving-baby-and-hes-adorable/>

That's Big: WWE Has Very Lofty Goal For Elimination Chamber And It Hinges On John Cena.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-big-wwe-has-very-lofty-goal-for-elimination-chamber-and-it-hinges-on-john-cena/>

Did It Again: Title Change Takes Place At WWE Survivor Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/did-it-again-title-change-takes-place-at-wwe-survivor-series/>

WATCH: Wild Parking Lot Brawl Breaks Out After WWE Survivor Series.

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Ouch: AEW Star Reportedly Injured During Collision, Needed Help Getting Around.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ouch-aew-star-reportedly-injured-during-collision-needed-help-getting-around/>

Yes, Again: WWE Sets Another Record At Survivor Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/yes-again-wwe-sets-another-record-at-survivor-series/>

Banged Up: Jimmy Uso Hurt During WarGames At Survivor Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/banged-up-jimmy-uso-hurt>

[-during-wargames-at-survivor-series/](#)

Down For Now: WWE Superstar “Questionable” Following Scary Survivor Series Crash.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/down-for-now-wwe-superstar-questionable-following-scary-survivor-series-crash/>

Positive: Good News On Jacob Fatu Following Injury Scare At WWE Survivor Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/positive-good-news-on-jacob-fatu-following-injury-scare-at-wwe-survivor-series/>

On The Market: AEW Star Officially A Free Agent, WWE Reportedly Interested.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/on-the-market-aew-star-officially-a-free-agent-wwe-reportedly-interested/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Speculation Over WWE Considering Turning Major Star Into A Hero.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-speculation-over-wwe-considering-turning-major-star-into-a-hero/>

Remember Him? Controversial Former WWE Star Returning To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/remember-him-controversial-former-wwe-star-returning-to-the-ring/>

International Incident? New Japan Pro Wrestling Star Challenges Cody Rhodes And Randy Orton.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/international-incident-new-japan-pro-wrestling-star-challenges-cody-rhodes-and-randy-orton/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: CM Punk Adlibbed This Part Of The WarGames Match At Survivor Series.

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# Survivor Series 2024: One Is Better Than None

## Survivor Series 2024

Date: November 30, 2024

Location: Rogers Arena, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Commentators: Corey Graves, Michael Cole

It's WarGames night and that should be enough to carry the evening. In this case we have the men's and women's version, but there are also three title matches to fill out the card. That should be more than enough, as the card is looking rather excellent all things considered. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the two WarGames matches, with the other matches not really being important enough to warrant much time.

Since we're going to have two of them, here are the WarGames rules:

- Two wrestlers start and fight for five minutes.
- After five minutes, the team with the advantage (as

determined before the match) gets a three minute advantage.

- The teams alternate until all ten are in and then it's first pin/submission to win.

The cage is lowered.

### Women's WarGames

Naomi, Iyo Sky, Bayley, Rhea Ripley, Bianca Belair  
Liv Morgan, Raquel Rodriguez, Nia Jax, Tiffany Stratton,  
Candice LeRae

Bayley is a last second replacement for the possibly injured Jade Cargill. Jax and Bayley start things off with Bayley bouncing off of her but being smart enough to avoid a charge. They go between the ring where Bayley loudly calls for an elbow and is then elbowed in the face. Bayley takes her into the other ring and goes up for a super hurricanrana before taking off some weird shoulder pad to whip Jax.

That gets taken away and a running hip attack sends Bayley back into the first ring. Jax runs her over and it's Naomi, wearing a freaking birthday hat, is in, albeit after grabbing some weapons (including a toilet seat). Naomi steps on her in the back then slides under a clothesline and helps double team Jax down. Jax gets the kendo stick but is knocked into the corner, where the toilet seat is put on her face for the Stinkface.

Jax gets double backdropped and it's...well it was going to be Tiffany Stratton but Candice LeRae comes out of the cage instead. Some chair shots put Bayley and Naomi down and the slow beating begins. LeRae lays Bayley over some open chairs for a Lionsault and it's Belair coming in (after getting a trashcan, a fire extinguisher, a table and a chair) to even things up. Belair drops LeRae onto the turnbuckle and puts Jax into the corner.

A dropkick sends a chair into Jax's face in the corner (she was nice enough to hold it) and Tiffany Stratton is in to give the villains the advantage again. A handspring elbow connects and a middle rope G9 hits Belair. Naomi takes a chair from Jax and knocks her down with some not so great chair shots. Sky is in next and grabs a painted trashcan, which she uses a string to tie around her back. That's broken up though with LeRae cutting her off, leaving the trashcan on top of the cage.

Sky and Stratton take turns flipping around until Sky chairs her down. Jax is back up to run Sky over and it's Raquel Rodriguez coming in to a limited reaction. After taking her required time to bring in weapons, Bayley and Belair jump Rodriguez. Jax breaks that up and the villains wreck everyone until Ripley (in red for once, plus a horned mask) is in to complete her team. Naomi is back up with a double Rear View and almost everyone lays around a lot.

Rodriguez and Jax get beaten up in the corner and Ripley headbutts Jax down, leaving her as the only person standing. Morgan is in to complete the field and brings in a baseball bat, with Ripley taking the mask off, revealing black eye paint. Morgan's big swing misses and the beatdown is on but Jax makes the save. Ripley is held for a bunch of bat shots to the ribs and the handcuffs are brought out, with Ripley managing to fight them off.

Sky and Bayley make the save and it's a parade of shots to the face to put people down. Bayley gets caught with a Samoan drop as Sky and Stratton climb to the top of the cage. They both do flip dives (Sky with the trashcan) and everyone is down. Stratton pulls out the briefcase and teases a cash in but Sky makes the save with a fire extinguisher. Rodriguez is handcuffed in the corner and Belair drops LeRae face first onto the turnbuckle.

A legdrop gets two on Belair but Jax gets powerbombed through a table. Morgan grabs a baseball bat for some shots but Belair

takes it away. A quick Oblivion onto a chair hits Bayley but Rodriguez saves Morgan from Riptide. Morgan's Codebreaker sends a chair into Ripley's face before they go up top. Ripley powers her up into a super Riptide through the table and Morgan is done at 38:03.

**Rating:** C-. They had some moments which worked, but my goodness this did not work very well. It was a mixture of a lot of blown spots, people standing around waiting for their spots, too many weapons, and just too much time overall. This is a match that would have been far better as a run of the mill Survivor Series elimination match, if nothing else as it would suit the styles better. Just way too long here and too much standing around waiting or screwing up stuff that didn't need to be so complicated. This was possibly the weakest WWE WarGames match yet and that's not nice to see.

We recap LA Knight defending the US Title against Shinsuke Nakamura, who returned and attacked Knight to jump back into the title picture. Mist was blown too and Knight was partially blinded.

#### US Title: LA Knight vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Knight is defending and Nakamura has a very Samurai style entrance. Nakamura strikes away to start but Knight is back up with the stomping in the corner. A middle rope elbow to the back gives Knight two but Nakamura elbows him in the face. Nakamura's basement dropkick rocks Knight but he ducks a spinning kick to the face.

The torture rack slam plants Nakamura and Knight puts him up top, where it's an overhead belly to back superplex to drop Knight on his face. Knight knocks him back down though and hits the jumping top rope elbow...for no cover. Instead Nakamura rolls between the rings and grabs a reverse DDT onto the steel plate. Kinshasa gives Nakamura the title back at 9:52.

**Rating:** B-. I can go with the result, as either of them coming

out with the title would have gone well enough. Nakamura coming back to lose wouldn't have made a ton of sense, but it's still a bit surprising that Knight lost the title so soon. For now though, it's the right way to go and odds are the feud isn't over yet.

Alpha Academy sell t-shirts, but Otis has forgotten his pants.

We recap the Intercontinental Title triple threat. Sheamus wants the one title he's never had, Ludwig Kaiser wants to prove himself, and Bron Breaker wants to fight everyone.

### Intercontinental Title: Bron Breaker vs. Sheamus vs. Ludwig Kaiser

Breaker is defending. Kaiser is sent outside fast to start and grabs a chair but Breaker knocks him down. Breaker gets in a shot to Sheamus' knee but Kaiser is back up to put the chair in the corner. Sheamus and Breaker hammer away on Kaiser in the corner but he cuts off both of them with running dropkicks on the floor. Breaker flies in with a shoulder to drop Kaiser though and then runs Sheamus over for a bonus.

Sheamus gets hammered down as well and Breaker does the Scott Steiner pushups back inside. Back up and Sheamus knocks him down but Kaiser is right there to take Sheamus to the floor. A powerbomb is broken up and Breaker hits a huge clothesline from the apron onto the announcers' table to take both of them out. Breaker sends Sheamus over the barricade, where he rises up for some forearms to their chests.

The double clothesline off the barricade has Sheamus in control but Kaiser grabs the shillelagh. Sheamus drops him with ease and goes inside to slug it out with Breaker. The Celtic Cross gives Sheamus two but Breaker is back with the Frankensteiner. Sheamus avoids a charge into the chair in the corner though and the Brogue Kick connects, only for Kaiser to pull the referee out.

Kaiser unloads on him with the shillelagh but Sheamus is back with the knee to the face for two. Kaiser hits a Regal Roll on Sheamus and hits him in the bad ribs, setting up the wind up DDT. Breaker spears the heck out of Kaiser and does it again to Sheamus for the pin at 14:22.

**Rating:** B+. This was what I wanted out of a match like this, with Breaker looking like an absolute freak of nature. I could have seen any of them leaving with the title here and that is a great feeling to have on the way in. Sheamus almost has to win the title one day just to pay off the buildup, but for now it's Breaker's time and that's what it should be. Heck of a match here.

We recap Gunther defending the Raw World Title against Damian Priest. This is more about the wrestler vs. the brawler, with Priest getting inside of Gunther's head by messing with his confidence.

#### Raw World Title: Damian Priest vs. Gunther

Gunther is defending. They go technical to start with Priest grabbing an armbar and knocking him outside. Back in and Priest fires off some kicks, followed by a faceplant but Priest's shoulder gives out on him so Gunther can have an opening. Gunther starts in on on the arm and takes it outside for some rams into various things. Back in and Gunther slowly starts kicking away at the arm, seemingly being happy that he is getting to take the fans out of this.

The double arm crank has Priest screaming but he fights up and scores with a kick to the head. Back up and Priest hits the running elbow in the corner into the lifting Downward Spiral for two with just the one arm. The arm gives out on the Razor's Edge attempt though and Gunther grabs a sleeper. That's broken up so Priest hits a super hurricanrana into the Razor's Edge for two.

South Of Heaven is loaded up but the arm gives out, allowing

Gunther to grab a Kimura. Priest gets over to the rope for the save but Gunther knows Priest is in trouble. Gunther takes his time going after him, allowing Priest to come back with a clothesline for a delayed two. Priest goes up top but has to shove Gunther down, only to crash out to the floor. Cue Finn Balor with a Coup de Grace off the steps to crush Priest, allowing Gunther to grab the sleeper for the win at 19:13.

**Rating:** B-. It was good enough but the ending being almost the same as the one from Summerslam didn't help things. You can only get so much out of doing something so similar, but this does at least get Gunther past Priest and on to whomever is next. That's a good thing to accomplish, as Priest can have his big blowoff with Balor once and for all.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

We get NFL style intros for the participants in the main event.

We recap the men's WarGames match. The new Bloodline is running roughshod over Smackdown so Roman Reigns, the Usos and Sami Zayn have risen up to fight them. The Bloodline got Bronson Reed to help them, so Reigns called Paul Heyman to get CM Punk's help. The idea is that if the Bloodline isn't stopped here, they can't be stopped.

### Men's WarGames

Bloodline/Bronson Reed

Roman Reigns, Usos, CM Punk, Sami Zayn,

Jey and Tama start things off and they take their time going after each other. Jey starts swinging away but misses an enziguri, allowing Tama to hit a sliding lariat into a powerslam. The slingshot hilo connects and Tama hits a splash before going for a cover out of instinct. Another basement lariat misses and Jey hits the running Umaga Attack in the corner. Bronson Reed is in next and he grabs a bunch of

chairs, with Jey throwing them at Reed.

Some of them stagger Reed but he knocks another out of the air. Tama is back up and Jey gets dropped, with Reed hitting a big backplash. Jey gets crushed again but it's Jimmy Uso coming in to even things up. Jimmy doesn't even bother with weapons but starts striking away and runs both of them over. Tama is sent into the cage and the Usos hammer away in the corner. Reed is sent into the cage as well and it's....Jacob Fatu in on Solo Sikoa's orders.

As he tends to do, Fatu wrecks everything in sight (well everything not on his team at least), including running Jimmy over. Jey is held up and taken down with a flipping slam and it's all Bloodline. CM Punk is ready to enter, but Roman Reigns cuts him off and has Sami Zayn go in instead. Zayn hammers on Reed in the corner and stomps on him in between the rings. Fatu pulls a high crossbody out of the air but Jimmy hits a superkick to make the save, setting up the big hug with Zayn.

Fatu's implant DDT plants Jimmy though and the Bloodline is in control as Tonga Loa comes in. Some tables are thrown in and the Bloodline slowly hammers away as the pace lowers a lot. Fatu hits a springboard moonsault and Jimmy is sent into the cage. Roman Reigns is ready to come in but CM Punk walks in front of him to even the score again. Punk looks back at Reigns, who shakes his head, before Punk grabs a toolbox. A bunch of toolbox shots to the head stagger the Bloodline and Fatu is dropped onto the toolbox...but he pops up and hits the Samoan drop to plant Punk.

Zayn is beaten in the corner and it's Solo Sikoa in to complete the Bloodline. Sikoa slams the door onto Zayn's head and then does the same thing to the Usos. A chain is brought in and the Usos are stacked up for Fatu's double springboard moonsault. The Tsunami crushes Zayn as Sikoa is rather pleased. Punk tries to get up but gets beaten down, leaving

Sikoa to use the chain to lock the door (Sikoa: "HEY ROMAN! YOU AIN'T GETTING IN HERE!").

Reigns comes to the cage but can't get in through the door so he climbs the wall and punches away to get inside, even diving onto all five at once. All ten get up and Reigns goes to glare at Punk. Cue Paul Heyman to say work together...and sure we'll do that. We get the ten way slugout between the rings with the Bloodline getting beaten down. The Usos hit stereo Superfly Splashes on the Tongas.

Fatu and Sikoa wreck the Usos and go to slug it out with Reigns and Punk. Reigns ducks the Samoan Spike and spears Punk by mistake, allowing Sikoa to hit the Samoan Spike for two. Reed hits the Death Valley Driver but Fatu messes up the springboard moonsault and hurts his knee. Reigns is back up with a low blow to Fatu and a spear to Sikoa but Reed hits a superkick. Reed puts him on the table and climbs the cage (uh oh) but Punk makes the save, leaving Reed to crash through the table (which exploded).

Fatu breaks up the big handshake but gets Superman Punches. Sikoa hits a pair of Samoan Spikes but Jey makes the save, suddenly remembering that he's in the match. The Usos superkick Fatu and give him the 1D, followed by Zayn's Blue Thunder Bomb to Tama. Jimmy goes all the way to the top of the cage and, eventually, hits a Superfly Splash to drive Fatu through the table. Sikoa is left alone, leaving him to turn down the chance of acknowledging Reigns. A parade of finishers into the spear gives Reigns the pin at 41:55.

**Rating:** B. As usual, this match was far longer than it needed to be, but they didn't rely on the weapons nearly as much as they did in the opener. At the same time, there was way too much laying around waiting to get something else going. That meant making the match go longer than it needed to and that is the case with almost every WarGames match. The ending felt like a pretty strong closing of the door on Sikoa, but there

is a very good chance that the story could keep going. For now though, the good guys needed a win and then got one.

Post match Reigns and Punk show respect and Punk hugs Heyman, saying he'll ask for the favor one day. Works for Heyman. The winners pose together to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. As usual, this show was built around two matches but in this case only one of them worked. The main event was rather good while the opener was pretty weak. The good thing is the three matches in between boosted up the rest of the card, making a good show that was done in about three and a half hours. The heroes won in the two major matches, which is a nice feeling at a bigger show. Good stuff here, with the main event working as well as it could have given the circumstances.

### Results

Naomi, Iyo Sky, Bayley, Rhea Ripley, Bianca Belair b. Liv Morgan, Raquel Rodriguez, Nia Jax, Tiffany Stratton, Candice LeRae – Super Riptide through a table to Morgan

Shinsuke Nakamura b. LA Knight – Kinshasa

Bron Breaker b. Sheamus and Ludwig Kaiser – Spear to Sheamus

Gunther b. Damian Priest – Sleeper

Roman Reigns/Usos/Sami Zayn/CM Punk b. Bloodline/Bronson Reed – Spear to Sikoa

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## Survivor Series 2024 Preview

It's time to go north of the border as we're in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada for the match and as has been the case for a few years now, the show is centered around WarGames. We have a men's and women's edition, with the men's centered around the Bloodline civil war, with CM Punk and Paul Heyman being added in to really spice things up. That should be enough to make the show work so let's get to it.

Intercontinental Title: Bron Breaker(c) vs. Sheamus vs. Ludwig Kaiser

This is the continuing saga of Sheamus trying to finally win the Intercontinental Title, which has been set up for years now before WWE actually pulls the trigger. That opens up the possibility of WWE going there this time around, though I'm not sure if that is what they're going to do. Breaker holding onto the title is certainly a possibility, but Kaiser has been doing some very nice work recently as well.

I think I'll go with Breaker retaining here as you don't want him losing the title again so soon, but at the same time, I wouldn't be stunned to see Kaiser steal the belt. Sheamus almost has to win the title at some point, which could make for a heck of a WrestleMania moment if that is where they want to go. For now though, I'll take Breaker to retain, as it's the best option at the moment.

## United States Title: LA Knight(c) vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Here we have the other midcard title match, which is a bit less complicated, as Nakamura returned and went after the title, even misting Knight in the eyes. Knight isn't happy and is ready to fight, as is Nakamura most of the time. Knight is in a weird place as he's a fighting champion but this feud was just kind of dropped into place out of nowhere with little connection between them. On the other hand, Nakamura has been gone for months so he needs something to do.

I'm not sure what to do here but I'll go with Knight retaining the title, possibly via DQ, as I don't think this is it for the two of them. Knight shouldn't be losing the title so soon but Nakamura shouldn't be losing his first big match back. We'll say Nakamura mists Knight again for the DQ to set up a rematch where Knight can go over clean, but for now they do something to extend the story.

## Raw World Title: Gunther(c) vs. Damian Priest

This is a rematch from Summerslam where Gunther beat Priest for the title, albeit with help from Finn Balor. This time around it should be a bit more of a straight up match, though in this case Priest is getting inside Gunther's head. Gunther seems to be questioning whether he can actually beat Priest, who has shown that he is capable of winning a fight rather than a match.

That being said, I can't imagine the title changes here, as Gunther seems poised for some major matches going forward. We've already seen Priest having a major run with the belt so he can lose here to give Gunther the clean (well likely cleaner) win that he didn't get at Summerslam. I'm not sure what is next for Priest at the moment, but he doesn't need to get the title back. Yet.

## Women's WarGames

Now we get to the focal point of the show, as a pair of ragtag groups come together in the biggest team match that WWE has all year. Bayley is a last minute replacement for the (possibly) injured Jade Cargill and that has the radar going up. Someone attacked Cargill and there is a good chance that the attacker will be revealed during the match. That very well may cost the team, and odds are that's where this goes.

I'll take Team Jax to win here, likely through some kind of betrayal when the attacker reveals themselves. Bianca Belair herself would be a likely way to go (likely, not necessarily logical), with Naomi possibly taking the fall. Either way, this is going to be about what happened to Cargill and odds are we find out a big piece of that puzzle this week, especially with the last minute change having to take place.

### Men's WarGames

This is the big one though, as CM Punk and Paul Heyman are back to help cut off the Bloodline once and for all. I'm not sure how that is going to go, but at the end of the day it is going to be the latest chapter in the big drama. Heyman very well could turn on Reigns or they could fight off the Bloodline again. Either way, we could be in for something rather big, which is the point of the whole thing.

I think I'll go with Reigns and company winning here, just because the team has been beaten down so many times lately. At some point they have to win something back and beating the Bloodline in WarGames would be a good place to start. I'm not sure where it goes from here, but for now, the Bloodline takes a loss, likely with one of the Tongas getting pinned to help preserve Siko's status.

### Overall Thoughts

This show is absolutely stacked, with three title matches and a pair of WarGames matches. That's a pretty good lineup for one night and I want to see how it goes. We're getting into

the interesting time in WWE's calendar as we have this, then two weeks before Saturday Night's Main Event and then it is time to get ready for the Royal Rumble. This show is both part of the end and part of the beginning and the pieces are there for a rather awesome show if everything goes as planned.

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# Smackdown – November 29, 2024: They're Getting Good At This

## Smackdown

Date: November 29, 2024

Location: Delta Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

It's the go home show for Survivor Series and we're taped after last week's show. This week still has some implications for the pay per view as we're going to need a replacement for the injured Jade Cargill in WarGames. That and the rest of the

show will probably get some featured time so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of CM Punk and Paul Heyman returning to save Roman Reigns and company last week.

Here is Team Rhea Ripley, now with Bayley replacing Jade Cargill, for a chat. Ripley talks about how the team isn't a bunch of friends, but they all have someone they want to get their hands on in WarGames. The rest of the team (Naomi, Bayley, Iyo Sky and Bianca Belair) agree but Team Liv Morgan interrupts.

Nia Jax brings up all of the other team's past issues, with Morgan accusing Bayley of attacking Jade Cargill. Ripley cuts her off and says Morgan is going to have to face her. Various threats are made and the brawl is on in the aisle. And on the stage. Some in the ring too. Security and referees make the save. Bayley makes as much sense as anyone else but there is always the chance that she's up to something nefarious

Andrade vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

Nakamura, now with some face paint, strikes away in the corner but gets taken down with a middle rope crossbody. That doesn't get him very far as Nakamura hammers away again but Nakamura kicks him down, with the fans being rather pleased. Nakamura goes up and gets knocked to the floor with a springboard dropkick, setting up a moonsault to drop him again.

We take a break and come back with Andrade elbowing him in the face and grabbing a dragon screw legwhip. Nakamura catches him on top but gets elbowed down, setting up the double moonsault for two. Andrade misses a shot to the face but ducks Kinshasa, setting up the spinning backfist to the face for two more. Two Amigos connect, with the third suplex sending Nakamura into the corner. The running knees in the corner miss, with Nakamura pulling them turnbuckle off to make the crash even

worse. Kinshasa finishes for Nakamura at 10:34.

**Rating:** B-. This was the kind of win that Nakamura needed to show that he's still quite the threat, including possibly being able to take out LA Knight at Survivor Series. That's the right way to present him and the match worked here, with Andrade putting in some effort. Nakamura looking good was the point though and him winning the title isn't out of the question.

Post match LA Knight runs in to jump Nakamura but gets mist in the face.

Nick Aldis bans the Bloodline from ringside for Jacob Fatu's WarGames advantage match.

Tommaso Ciampa rants at Johnny Gargano about how things have changed and now he wants to get the Tag Team Titles back. Gargano has one more week to figure this out or it's Ciampa's way.

Kevin Owens explains his history with the Bloodline, with everything he's been through, only for his former friend, Cody Rhodes, to TEAM WITH ROMAN REIGNS. Now it's time for revenge, with the title match being set for Saturday Night's Main Event.

### Cody Rhodes vs. Carmelo Hayes

Non-title. Before the match, Hayes says Owens was right about Rhodes turning his back on his friends. Who needs enemies when you have friends like Rhodes? They lock up to start before trading rollups for two each. Hayes manages to knock him to the floor and then gets in a dropkick to the knee on the way back in. Rhodes is fine enough to hit a Disaster Kick and we take a break.

Back with Rhodes hitting a delayed superplex but Hayes grabs a spinning faceplant for two. Rhodes goes in a new direction

with a running powerslam into a Figure Four, with Hayes making the ropes in a hurry. Hayes goes for the knee and breaks up the Disaster Kick but has to get out of a Cross Rhodes attempt. The Cody Cutter works better and now Cross Rhodes finishes Hayes at 11:17.

**Rating:** B. They started slowly but the pace picked up and it turned into a nice, fast match near the end. That's all it needed to be, with Hayes being a good enough test for Rhodes. With Saturday Night's Main Event coming up for Rhodes, he's going to need to get in the ring time and Hayes has been needing something to do anyway.

Earlier this week, Paul Heyman held a sitdown interview with Roman Reigns and CM Punk. Naturally Punk showed up late to get on Reigns' nerves, eventually showing up to say he's here for Heyman rather than Reigns. That doesn't work for Reigns, who doesn't like anything about Punk.

Heyman says it's over without Punk, and if Punk doesn't help, he'll be next for the Bloodline. United, at best, they survive. Punk still doesn't care about Reigns but he's here to avenge Heyman. If Reigns wants to revisit this after Survivor Series one on one, Punk is all ears. For now though, their wise man owes Punk a favor. Punk leaves and Reigns asks Heyman about the favor. Heyman will tell him if they get through WarGames. Well that's ominous, and now we get to see where it goes from here. In other words, more good drama.

### Women's United States Title Tournament First Round: Piper Niven vs. Michin vs. Lash Legend

Chelsea Green is here with Niven, who gets hit in the face to start. Niven is fine enough to faceplant Michin and splash her for two with Legend making the save. A dropkick sends Niven to the floor and Michin sends Legend outside with a hurricanrana. That means a Lionsault to take the other two down but here is B-Fab to cut off an interfering Green. Legend kicks the

distracted Niven in the face and we take a break.

Back with Niven hitting Michin with a cannonball and Legend having to make a save. Legend backbreakers Michin and chokeslams Niven for two (that was impressive), followed by a powerbomb for two on Michin. A super Piper Driver is broken up and Niven misses a middle rope backsplash misses, allowing Legend to hit the Lash Extension. Michin comes off the top for the save though and steals the pin at 10:19.

**Rating:** B-. As has been the case recently, Legend got to showcase her power here and it worked very well, with her throwing Niven around being rather impressive. Michin's rise up the ranks continues and she is a dark horse to win the title. Niven was good as the monster to offer some issues, but Michin winning was a good way to go.

LA Knight is still ready for Shinsuke Nakamura, mist or no mist.

Survivor Series rundown.

Sami Zayn and Jimmy Uso give Jey Uso a pep talk but Nick Aldis says it's one on one.

### Jey Uso vs. Jacob Fatu

For the WarGames advantage. Fatu shoulders him down to start and chokes in the corner. Back up and a running clothesline sends Fatu outside, where he tosses Jey into and over various things. We take a break and come back with Jey fighting out of a nerve hold and sending him into the corner. Fatu misses a charge into the post, setting up the running Umaga Attack for two.

Back up and Fatu plants him down, setting up a handspring moonsault for two of his own. The pop up Samoan drop gets two more but a Swanton hits raised knees. The Superfly Splash gives Jey two and Fatu rolls outside, with a suicide dive

knocking him over the announcers' table. Fatu Samoan drops him onto the announcers' table (THUD), setting up the springboard moonsault for the pin at 13:49.

**Rating:** B-. This is what it should have been, as Fatu was making his singles debut and got to smash his way through someone with quite the level of success. Beating Uso feels like a big deal and it even has an impact on WarGames. This was a great way to get Fatu in the ring on his own for the first time and he more than held up his end.

**Overall Rating:** B+. This was a heck of a show, with nothing but good matches and an intense as heck Reigns/Punk/Heyman segment. I want to see what is going to happen at Survivor Series and that is a great feeling to have less than a day before the event. WWE is getting really good at hitting their stride before their big shows and they are doing it again here with an awesome Smackdown before Survivor Series.

### Results

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Andrade – Kinshasa

Cody Rhodes b. Carmelo Hayes – Cross Rhodes

Michin b. Piper Niven and Lash Legend – Lash Extension to Niven

Jacob Fatu b. Jey Uso – Springboard moonsault

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# Randy Savage Mixtape: ... Oh Yeah

## Randy Savage Mixtape

Date: November 15, 2024

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Bruno Sammartino, Tony Schiavone, Gorilla Monsoon, Bobby Heenan, Eric Bischoff, Steve McMichael, Larry Zbyszko

All hail the WWE Vault channel. So this is something unique as it's a three hour mash up of matches, promos and various things from throughout Savage's career. There is going to be some fascinating stuff in here to go with some classics and that should make for a very interesting watch. If nothing else, it's always nice to see something from one of the best ever. Let's get to it.

We open with an undated Randy Savage promo talking about how he's been turning around a lot lately, so of course he turns around as he talks. Honky Tonk Man hasn't been speaking very highly about Savage lately (putting this around 1987) and while he can't sing or dance, he can make romance. If Elizabeth is going right, he's going left. OH YEAH. As usual, I have no idea what he was talking about but it made sense.

We go to what looks like an empty building where Savage, billed as the World Heavyweight Champion, meaning we're in the ICW out of Lexington, Kentucky, is beating up what I'd assume is a job guy. The middle rope elbow (more like a regular elbow

drop without a jump as it was a work in progress) connects and Savage goes to the floor. Savage talks about WKYT Channel 27 (that's the Lexington CBS station) is going to love him. It had no audience but you could absolutely feel the charisma dripping from him and he had to wind up on the big stage sooner than later.

Here's something a bit more familiar. From Wrestlemania VIII.

#### WWF Title: Randy Savage vs. Ric Flair

Flair, with Mr. Perfect, is defending. This is the co-main event of the show, with Savage coming after the title and revenge for Flair suggesting that he had a relationship with Elizabeth back in the day, sending Savage even more out of his mind. Savage jumps him on the floor to start fast with Perfect having to make a save. They get inside with Savage hitting a clothesline and hammering away in the corner as Heenan is going nuts on commentary. Flair gets in a backdrop to send Savage outside (in a great bump) and a ram into the apron makes it worse.

A delayed suplex gives Flair two and a belly to back gets the same as Heenan wants to see the alleged centerfolds of Elizabeth, as promised by Flair. The knee drop connects as Gorilla isn't having any of Heenan's chattering. Another suplex drops Savage and Flair stomps away as the slow pace continues. Savage tries to punch his way out of the corner and the fans go nuts, setting up a neckbreaker for a double down.

Heenan needs a drink as Flair goes to the top, only to get slammed down (with Savage on the bottom rope). Flair gets flipped in the corner and goes up, with Savage clotheslining him out of the floor. A clothesline puts Flair on the floor and Savage ax handles him into the barricade, with Flair clearly blading and getting in a good bit of trouble as a result.

The bloody head is sent into various metal objects and there's

a Flair Flop. Savage suplexes him on the floor as Heenan is BEGGING for the match to be stopped. Back in and a top rope ax handle sets up the big elbow but Perfect breaks up the count. The referee lets it go and gets bumped as Savage goes after Perfect, who throws Flair an object. A big right hand gives Flair two and Perfect gets in a chair shot to the knee.

That gives Flair a target but here is Elizabeth at ringside (with a bunch of people, including a young Shane McMahon, failing to stop her). Flair gets the Figure Four, with Perfect assisting, and the referee breaking it up when Savage turns it over. Flair chops away and says this one is for Elizabeth, but Savage gets in a right hand and rolls Flair up (with trunks) to get the title back at 18:02, sending Heenan into hysterics.

**Rating:** B+. Yeah it's still great, with the fans absolutely going nuts at every single thing in the match. You don't see that kind of heat ever and it was carrying an already good match that much higher. The place came unglued when Savage won and it's still a pretty awesome feel good moment. This was one of the last true high points for Savage in the WWF but he could more than still go, which makes his move to commentary all the more ridiculous. Anyway, awesome match even after I've probably seen it a hundred times.

Post match Flair goes after Elizabeth so she slaps him, sending Savage right back into the frenzy. Perfect gets back in as well and the beating is on (with blood on the back of one of the agents' suits for a slightly disturbing visual). Flair and Perfect are sent to the floor and Fink gets to announce Savage as ONCE AGAIN the WWF Champion (no NEEEEWWWWW but good enough). Pyro goes off and dang this would have made a great Night One main event if that was a thing back in the day.

And now, a Randy Savage music video, talking about how Savage gets the party jumping, looking (and feeling) probably from around 1993.

From WCW Worldwide, January 31, 1998.

### Randy Savage vs. Ultimo Dragon

Elizabeth is here with (NWO) Savage and my goodness this is the kind of rarities I love from WWE. Savage teases a handshake and then kicks him in the ribs as commentary talks about how there aren't as many old wrestling venues anymore. Dragon hits a dropkick but misses a second, only for Dragon to do his corner headstand. Some rapid fire kicks have Savage in trouble but he knocks Dragon back down. Elizabeth gets in some choking and Savage drops him throat first on the top. The big elbow finishes at 2:30. Not a squash, but Savage was never in any danger.

From what sounds like 1995, Savage says he beat the Zodiac and is ready for Hulk Hogan. Oh and Gene Okerlund's mustache is crooked. Gene isn't sure about that one and they're out.

From 1985, with Savage in the ring with all of the heel managers who had been recruiting him. Savage thanks them for everything they taught him, only to introduce his new manager: Elizabeth. Bruno Sammartino on commentary asking if she's a movie star is a bit creepy but it put over the idea well.

From a Superstars dark match, January 5, 1987.

### Randy Savage/Honky Tonk Man vs. Hulk Hogan/Ricky Steamboat

Well that's about the facest team that ever faced (and apparently they only teamed six times, mainly on house shows). Jimmy Hart and Elizabeth are here too. Savage throws in a chair and hits the referee by mistake and we start (minus a bell) with Honky Tonk being sent into a boot in the corner. Savage won't tag in so Steamboat hits a crossbody for two.

Hogan comes in and Savage goes to yell at Elizabeth for some reason, with Hogan throwing him back in for a tag to Honky Tonk. Steamboat chinlocks Honky Tonk and hands it back to

Hogan, with Honky Tonk bailing as fast as he can. An atomic drop out of the corner cuts off Honky Tonk's comeback and it's back to Steamboat for a sleeper. Savage finally gets in a cheap shot from the apron and now he's willing to come in with a top rope ax handle.

Honky Tonk's middle rope fist drop connects and he sends Steamboat outside for a slam on the floor while Savage offers a distraction. Back in and they ram heads, allowing Steamboat to get over for the tag off to Hogan. House is quickly cleaned and Steamboat hits the top rope chop but Honky Tonk shoves him off the top. Savage tries to bring in the bell and throws the referee down for cutting him off, which is enough for Steamboat to grab the bell instead. Savage and Elizabeth run off so Hogan and Steamboat beat up Hart as the match is thrown out at around 11:00.

**Rating:** C+. Oh like this wasn't going to be a blast. It's a match that they could have fun at a hundred house shows as the story is pretty much built in. Hogan could do anything and get cheered to the moon here while Savage and Honky Tonk Man had all of the heat. The match was exactly what you would expect and it didn't need to be anything else.

From Tuesday Night Titans (Savage is Intercontinental Champion so this is probably 1986) with Gene Okerlund hosting for some reason. There is a doctor here who has been researching great macho stars and now he has done a study on Savage. We get a video of Savage on a psychiatrist's couch for a word association game. After making sure it's non-title, we're ready to go (with the word and then Savage's response):

Macho – "The Macho Man Randy Savage."

Interesting – "Oh yes I am!" Then Savage realizes that's not one of the words and accepts the doctor's apology.

Pump – "Pumping iron."

Gun – “Fastest gun in the east, west, south and north.” Why he points down on “north” isn’t clear.

Muscle – “Don’t help me, don’t help me, no problem.”

Belt: “Yeah that’s what I’m going to do to Hulk Hogan when I see him.”

Sweat – “Blood sweat and tears all rolled into one. That’s why I’ve got this.” as he holds up the title.

Kitten – “What women turn into when I look at them.”

Female – “The race of people that admire and lust after the Macho Man. Ask Elizabeth.”

Stud – “You’re looking at him right now in vivid living color.”

Sucker – “Hulk Hogan. That was a good one.”

Animal – “What do you mean animal???” Savage goes nuts at the mention of George Steele and storms off.

Total insanity as usual and I cannot imagine this was scripted in any way. It felt like they just told Savage to go nuts and that doesn’t seem too difficult.

From Monday Nitro, May 6, 1996.

### Hugh Morrus vs. Randy Savage

Morrus jumps him on the floor to start and drops him onto the barricade as commentary talks about Ric Flair making Savage nuts. Morrus sends him into various things on the floor and PUTS ON SAVAGE’S HAT, which is enough to start the comeback. Savage chokes him with the shirt over the ropes and the match is thrown out at 2:58. More of an angle than a match, and oddly one of three matches these two had on Nitro over the years.

Post match Savage keeps up the beating and drops the elbow before beating up the referee as he has driven him this crazy. The cops come in and Doug Dillinger says Savage needs to "check yourself into an institution." The bell ringing over and over probably isn't helping his mental state.

Savage kisses an Easter Bunny. Ok then.

From July 30, 1991, a dark match from a Wrestling Challenge taping. Ignore that Savage lost his career back in March at Wrestlemania and wouldn't be reinstated until November.

### Randy Savage vs. Undertaker

From what I can find, their only non-house show match ever. Savage strikes away in the corner to start and hits the big clothesline out to the floor. Undertaker lands on his feet and hits a Stunner over the ropes, with Paul Bearer declaring it all over. Undertaker chokes on the ropes and chokes some more in the air as Bearer says there will be no wedding at Summerslam.

We'll go back to choking on the ropes and then onto the mat as Undertaker is really varying it up here. Savage fights up but charges into a knee in the corner, setting up Old School. A big running elbow misses though and Savage knees him out to the floor for the ax handle...and we don't have the end of the match filmed. We saw about 7:00 and Savage eventually won by pin.

**Rating:** N/A. I won't rate an incomplete match but it wasn't anything great. It's disappointing to not see the ending but I'll take what I can get. This is the definition of a rarity and something that is rather cool to see, as those two could have done some good things together. Savage was still a few months away from coming back full time and he didn't get to do much here, but the fans were still with him all the way.

From the ICW or maybe Memphis days, Savage drops an elbow into

a pool.

We see some bloopers from the filming of the earlier music video.

From WCW Saturday Night, January 28, 1995.

TV Title: Randy Savage vs. Arn Anderson

Savage is challenging and Anderson has Colonel Robert Parker and Meng with him. An armdrag into an armbar has Anderson down to start and he has to roll his way out of a sleeper. Anderson shoulders him down for two but Savage drops a knee to send Anderson bailing to the floor. Meng's distraction doesn't work as Savage elbows Anderson in the face, only to get taken down back inside.

The chinlock has the fans bringing Savage back up but a running elbow drops him again. Back up and they ram heads for a double down before Anderson has to break up another sleeper. They slug it out from their knees as even Heenan is praising Savage for doing anything to win. The fight heads outside with Anderson being posted as we have five minutes left in the fifteen minute time limit.

Back in and Parker gets in a cheap shot, allowing Anderson to grab a chinlock. Savage jawbreaks his way to freedom and knocks Anderson to the floor with two minutes left. Anderson rolls through a high crossbody for two but Savage's running clothesline gets the same. We have a minute left as Anderson can't hit the DDT. Parker's distraction lets Anderson hit a quick suplex but Savage drops him again. The top rope elbow gives Savage the pin at 15:15, meaning that he wins the match but not the title (as the title was only on the line for the first fifteen minutes, an old rule that allowed such finishes).

**Rating:** B. This got really good near the end as the time limit was becoming a big factor. I was wondering how they were going

to get out of this one and I'll take this over some lame DQ. These two worked well together, which isn't surprising given how good they were, but you didn't see them in the ring very often. Good match, especially on free TV.

Post match the Stud Stable comes in to beat Savage down but Dustin Rhodes and Sting make the save.

We get the famous Cream Rises To The Top/Cream Of The Crop promo, with Savage holding up a cup of cream and blames Jack Tunney for Ricky Steamboat being the Intercontinental Champion. He's coming for the WWF Title.

A quick vignette shows Savage picking up a woman from a bench. The screen behind them is white so I'm guessing it was part of some bigger video.

From a Superstars dark match, December 4, 1991.

Randy Savage/Jim Duggan/Roddy Piper vs. Ric Flair/Jake Roberts/Undertaker

Well ok then. Piper takes Flair into the corner to start but Flair leapfrogs (!) him and gets knocked to the floor for a breather. Roberts comes in to face Piper (that's a weird one) but wants Savage. Piper: "You want him? You're stupid!" It's off to Savage, who clears Roberts out in a hurry before Undertaker comes in to choke Duggan. The big right hands get Duggan out of trouble (and actually look good on someone as big as Undertaker) but the neck snap over the top cuts off the comeback.

Duggan gets beaten into the corner but again slugs his way out, allowing the tag back to Piper. Flair's poke to the eye lets Undertaker come back in for some choking, followed by some good old taunting from Roberts. The fans chant USA (for the Canadian born Scottish star) but oddly enough it works, allowing Savage to come in for a really fast comeback. Savage plants Flair and drops the big elbow for the pin at 8:48.

**Rating:** C+. Another fun match here and that's what it needed to be. It was an easy way to send the fans home happy with Savage pinning Flair, who was still pretty new at this point. Duggan slugging away was good enough, even if he was pretty low down on the totem pole. This was the kind of random match I want from something like this and it worked well.

NWO Savage is in a parade and references Harvard, which might be him being named Hasty Pudding's Man Of The Year (it's a Harvard theatrical group).

Elizabeth brings Gene Okerlund to the pool for a sitdown interview with Savage. He's very good at wrestling and no he didn't get rich by "stealing" the Intercontinental Title. Now he wants the WWF Title and hey look there's an airplane going by and he's not on it because there's no title defense up there (that was as random of a Savage moment as you'll get).

Savage is still ready to come after Hulk Hogan and Gene asks Elizabeth about her recent activities, like golf, tennis and swimming. That lack of attention doesn't work for Savage,, but Elizabeth gets a phone call, with a "national women's publication" offering Savage half a million dollars for a centerfold. That's a no and the publication can wait awhile.

Another call is from Japan, with a promoter offering \$400,000 for Savage to wrestle three men. That's a no as well but he'll beat all three of them right here for nothing. This was on a Coliseum Video before (probably one about Savage) and it's still good, with Savage being totally insane and making it work.

From Championship Wrestling, September 28, 1985.

Randy Savage/Jesse Ventura vs. Mike Rice/Mario Mancini

Elizabeth is here too and Savage orders her into the corner. Ventura takes Mancini into the corner for some shots from Savage and a kick to the back of the head. Rice comes in and

Ventura drops a leg, setting up the elbow to complete the squash at 1:43.

Post match Ventura gets in a shouting match with broadcaster Bruno Sammartino.

WWF Champion Randy Savage and Elizabeth are in Paris. That's it.

From Monday Nitro, January 20, 1997.

Savage storms the ring and throws a chair inside, saying he's been blackballed and isn't leaving until someone talks to him. He has a seat and shouts that HE'S WAITING so here is Chavo Guerrero Jr., who is scheduled for the opening match. Chavo begs Savage to leave but Savage isn't budging, eventually taking Chavo out with ease. Chavo's opponent, Maxx Muscle, comes in and gets laid out as well.

The referee gets beaten up, as does head of security Doug Dillinger. Alex Wright is the next victim so here are the Steiners and the Amazing French Canadians, none of whom are willing to get in. Sting lowers from the rafters (in front of the Chicago Bulls' championship banners for a great visual) and gets in but Savage still isn't getting out of the chair.

Sting hits the chair with the bat and then hands it to Savage, turning his back on him for the offer of a free shot. With Savage not swinging, they get out and leave through the crowd. I remember watching this live and it made Savage look like a killer. Then he turned on Sting and joined the NWO, which did make sense but was kind of disappointing as everyone was doing it.

We get a sitdown interview with Savage (looks 1993ish) where he talks about getting the Macho Man nickname during his baseball career.

Savage was in a WWF softball game and, believe it or not, hits

a home run.

Gene Okerlund is cut off by Savage talking a million miles an hour, speaking about sprinkling magic dust and never worrying about the future. Savage: "Doing the thing and bang bang!"

From Superstars in 1991, Savage talks about returning to the ring at Summerslam...and then he proposes to Elizabeth. Piper: "GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES!" Elizabeth isn't sure what to say, but then goes with the only possible answer: "OH YEAH!" This is still one of the best long form stories in WWF history and while it peaked at Wrestlemania, this was a great next step.

From (I'm assuming) Smoky Mountain Wrestling, Savage and Jim Cornette have a go-kart race. Savage destroys him as Cornette screams a lot. Cornette gets out and gets lapped before Savage chases him off the course. More goofy fun.

From....I have no idea actually but it appears to be a rematch from Wrestlemania III, putting it in the spring/early summer of 1987.

### Intercontinental Title: Randy Savage vs. Ricky Steamboat

Savage, with Elizabeth of course, is challenging (I think). A lockup doesn't go anywhere so Savage armdrags him down and points. Back up and Steamboat knocks him to the floor, with Savage needing a breather. Savage comes back in and elbows him in the head, meaning Steamboat goes to the floor for a change. Back in and Savage stomps away, sending him right back outside.

Steamboat gets back in and grabs the small package for the hope spot but Savage is out this time. A high crossbody is rolled through and Steamboat's head gets tied in the ropes for a...well not really a breather in this case. With that broken up, Steamboat fights back but gets kicked in the face to cut that off in a hurry. Another shot to the face gives Steamboat three but Savage's foot is in the ropes.

Some rollups give Steamboat two more, with a kickout sending the throat into the ropes. Savage misses a running crotch attack, allowing Steamboat to hit the top rope chop for two. They hit heads for a double down so Savage grabs the belt...which only hits turnbuckle, bouncing back into his face. Steamboat steals the pin to retain at 10:52.

**Rating:** B. I was worried coming into this one as I've seen rematches between them before and they really weren't very good. This was quite different from what they did at Wrestlemania and that's a heck of a trick, as it's a rematch of one of the best matches ever. It was almost weird to see them doing something that wasn't their classic match, but this was a nice, different direction.

Savage is ready to win the Intercontinental Title from Tito Santana, who is nothing but garbage compared to him. And yes, of course he has a trashcan with him, because Savage is good enough to realize that something that small was memorable. Santana is like a grain of sand in the Sahara desert and Savage is the entire desert.

From Monday Nitro, March 25, 1996.

### Randy Savage vs. Belfast Bruiser

Bruiser is better known as Finlay. Savage shoves him away to start but gets caught in an early chinlock. Bruiser's rough uppercut forearms just wake Savage up and he knocks Bruiser hard to the floor. That's fine with Bruiser, who drops him onto the barricade and sends him over said barricade for a bonus. Back in and Savage avoids a charge into the post, setting up the big elbow for the pin at 5:06.

**Rating:** C+. This is a match that would have been rather different once Finlay developed his reputation but for now, it was mostly Savage getting beaten up and then hitting the elbow for a miracle win. In other words, just about all he did around this time. Savage could only do so much with his bad

arm and while this wasn't bad, it never really got going.

We get a quick (as in like ten seconds) rehearsal of Savage's entrance from Wrestlemania IX with the arena empty for a weird visual.

From UK Rampage 1992.

### WWF Title: Shawn Michaels vs. Randy Savage

Savage is defending and has Elizabeth to counter Sensational Sherri. Heenan thinks Savage is either brave or stupid for coming in here on a bad leg. They fight over a lockup to start before Shawn sends him into the corner. Savage gets up a knee to cut off the charge though and Shawn needs a breather. The delay doesn't work for Savage, who throws in a chair so we can reset things a bit. Some shoulders drop Savage but he's right back with a clothesline to the floor, setting up a top rope ax handle.

With Savage occupied, Sherri goes after Elizabeth, which is broken up in short order. Shawn is right there for the save and sends Savage into the post to take over. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gives Shawn two and a swinging neckbreaker is good for the same. Savage is back with a shot to the face for two and Sherri is already panicking.

A big knee sends Shawn to the floor for a top rope ax handle, followed by another for two back inside. Savage tries it again but gets punched out of the air, setting up a hard clothesline for two. The superkick (not yet a big deal) gives Shawn two and the top rope fist drop sends Savage back to the floor. Back in and Shawn throws him over the top again, with Sherri getting in a hard kick of her own.

Savage gets back in and accidentally runs the referee over, meaning the top rope elbow gets no count. The referee is pulled back in for a VERY delayed two so Sherri gets on the apron, with Elizabeth shoving her down. Savage hits a high

crossbody for two, followed by Shawn grabbing a top rope sunset flip for two. Back up and Savage hits another high crossbody for the pin to retain at 16:15, making me wonder if they didn't get the right finish on the first one.

**Rating:** B. I've seen this one a few times before and it's easy to see why Savage wanted to do something big with Shawn. You could see flashes of what Shawn would become later on and Savage was wise to want to be in on that. The match was good and let Shawn get a chance to rub elbows with the legend, which made for a rather nice showcase for both of them.

Post match Shawn jumps Savage again but Sherri's boot shot misses, allowing Savage to clear the ring.

**Overall Rating:** A. Oh of course this was great as it's exactly what I wanted out of something like WWE Vault. It's a great mixture of stuff I've seen before and a bunch of rare/unreleased stuff without going with a bunch of stuff we've seen before (Wrestlemania III or IV). This was excellent and a real treat that had me wanting to see what was next, which isn't a feeling I get very often. Definitely worth a look if you want to see one of the best ever.

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# Dynamite – November 27, 2024: And Now For Something Completely Different

## Dynamite

Date: November 27, 2024

Location: Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Illinois

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Nigel McGuinness

We're done with Full Gear and it is time to start the Continental Classic. The tournament was one of the bigger hits of last year and there is a good chance that they can continue it this year. Other than that, Darby Allin seems to be next in line for the World Title shot, which is certainly an interesting choice after how Allin has done lately. Let's get to it.

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

Long Full Gear recap.

We get a quick Continental Classic preview, with some entrants saying they'll win. Quick look at the rules:

- 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 for a loss
- Round Robin format, meaning it's not single elimination.
- 20 minute time limits, no one allowed at ringside.
- The winner of the Blue League will face the runner up of the Gold League and vice versa at Worlds End, with winners of those matches facing off the same night to crown a winner.

Here is the Hurt Syndicate for a chat. MVP compares Bobby Lashley and Shelton Benjamin to Michael Jordan and Walter Payton, but anyone who turns down the Hurt Syndicate isn't all that bright. Like Swerve Strickland, and we see a clip of Lashley taking Strickland out at Full Gear.

### Continental Classic Blue League: Mark Briscoe vs. Shelton Benjamin

Briscoe starts fast and knees him out to the floor but Benjamin is back up with some whips into various things. Back up and Briscoe hits a running flip dive, only for Benjamin to run the corner for a superplex. We take a break and come back with Benjamin forearming away in the corner.

That just fires Briscoe up and he knocks Benjamin down for the Froggy Bow, which hurts himself in the process. Another Froggy Bow only hits raised knees though and Benjamin snaps off some release German suplexes. A Jay Driller attempt is countered and the Dragon Whip into a superkick gives Benjamin two. The exploder finishes Briscoe clean at 11:11.

**Rating:** B-. Good, back and forth match here, though I'm a bit surprised that Briscoe just lost clean. You don't see that happen very often and it's a nice win for Benjamin, who is still new around here. Briscoe is probably going to be getting back into the Ring Of Honor World Title picture though and this didn't really help him.

### Blue League Standings

Shelton Benjamin – 3 Points (4 matches remaining)

Kazuchika Okada – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Kyle Fletcher – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Daniel Garcia – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

The Beast Mortos – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Mark Briscoe – 0 Points (4 matches remaining)

Here are Mercedes Mone and Kamille for a chat. Tony Schiavone

praises Mone's match with Kris Statlander, with Mone calling it money. She also suggests that Kamille isn't that bright, which is enough for Kamille to quit. That's certainly sudden, but I'd rather they just do it than drag things out.

### Ring Of Honor World Title: Chris Jericho vs. Tomohiro Ishii

Jericho is defending and Big Bill is on commentary. They start with the exchange of chops (get used to it) and after nearly three minutes of them, it heads out to the apron. Jericho gets in a DDT onto said apron to take over and they head back inside. An exchange of slaps to the face has Ishii taking over for a change and we take a break.

Back with Jericho hitting a superplex but Ishii pops up and slugs away. A German suplex drops Ishii but he blocks the Judas Effect with a clothesline to the back of the head. Jericho is back up with a Judas Effect into a Codebreaker for one but Ishii can't stand. He can however counter the Walls attempt and grab a Codebreaker of his own, followed by an enziguri. Jericho catches him with another Judas Effect though and the Lionsault retains at 13:15.

**Rating:** B-. Ishii never felt like a threat to win the title and while the knockout of the Judas Effect and Codebreaker was good, it wasn't enough to make me believe that he was going to win. Jericho gets to hold onto the title even longer and now we're going to see who is next. A rematch with Mark Briscoe at Final Battle wouldn't shock me, but dang that's not the most appealing thing in the world.

Swerve Strickland talks about how hard Bobby Lashley hit him but Max Caster interrupts. Caster brings up Strickland's losses and the fight is on.

Here is Hangman Page for a chat about everything he did at Full Gear. He isn't happy with Christian Cage screwing up his chance to cash in his World Title contract because Page would win the title and go home to eat some stuffing. Cue Jay White

to bring up beating Page twice in a row, so he wants the World Title. Cue the Death Riders to take both of them out, with Jon Moxley choking White out.

### Continental Classic Gold League: Claudio Castagnoli vs. Ricochet

Castagnoli knocks him down to start but Ricochet is back up with a hurricanrana to the floor. Ricochet's moonsault to the floor is cut off though and Castagnoli drops him onto the barricade. Ricochet is back up with a suicide dive but a springboard is cut off back inside. We take a break and come back with Castagnoli being sent to the floor but coming back in with a big boot for two.

A rather spinning ankle scissors sends Castagnoli to the floor and a middle rope moonsault gives Ricochet two back inside. Another springboard is elbowed out of the air for two and Castagnoli gets the Sharpshooter. With that broken up, Castagnoli's Riccola Bomb is countered into a hurricanrana for two. They go outside again with Ricochet getting crotched on the barricade for a near countout. Back in and Castagnoli hits a hard lariat for the pin at 13:03.

**Rating:** B. This was a match where you probably knew what you were going to get coming in and it still worked out pretty well. Castagnoli got to show off his power stuff and Ricochet flew around as well as ever. At the same time though, Castagnoli doesn't feel like he's in some big monster heel group during his matches. This felt like any Castagnoli match from any point in his career, which makes anything he does with the team outside of the ring feel like it's from another place.

### Gold League Standings

Claudio Castagnoli – 3 Points (4 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Will Ospreay – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Brody King – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Juice Robinson – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Ricochet– 0 Points (4 matches remaining)

Don Callis and Kyle Fletcher brag about Fletcher beating Will Ospreay. That was proof that Fletcher is better and the Continental Classic will prove it again.

Here are Adam Cole and the Undisputed Kingdom, with the former calling out MJF. Instead he gets Kyle O'Reilly, who offers to fight MJF. Cole wants to do it but MJF pops up on screen to say he's too focused on next week's Dynamite Dozen Battle Royal. O'Reilly and Cole enter as well, for a chance to get a shot at MJF. I really, really, really could go for dropping the whole "MJF has to defend the diamond ring" deal. Not everything has to be some annual tradition.

Since two tournaments at once aren't enough, we're also getting a qualifying tournament for the AEW spot in the Wrestle Dynasty International Women's Cup, with the first semifinal starting tonight. Here are the brackets:

Jamie Hayter

Queen Aminata

Serena Deeb

Willow Nightingale

International Women's Cup Qualifying Tournament Semifinals:  
Jamie Hayter vs. Queen Aminata

Hayter powers her into the corner to start and grabs a front facelock. That's broken up with a hiptoss and they go into the corner for an exchange of chops. Hayter snaps off a suplex and we take an early break. Back with Hayter slugging away but missing the lariat. Aminata gets in a suplex of her own, setting up a running knee to the face for two. Aminata's top rope double stomp misses though and Hayter hits an Irish Curse for two of her own. They trade rollups for two each until

Hayter kicks her in the face, setting up Hayterade for the pin at 9:17.

**Rating:** C+. The match was fine and thankfully this mini tournament only has four people. I know AEW loves itself some tournaments but a tournament to qualify for a four way match for bragging rights against stars from other companies feels like a bit of overkill. Just say Hayter or Nightingale is going to Wrestle Dynasty and move on.

Post match the lights dim and a spotlight comes on...but no one is there.

We get a sitdown interview with Mina Shirakawa, who knew Mariah May could turn on her. She was ready for what was coming and showed the real Mina...and then May hits her in the back of the head with a bottle. May says she wants the real Mina.

#### Continental Classic Gold League: Brody King vs. Darby Allin

Allin is all taped up and gets shoved down to start. A slap to the face just annoys King, who runs Allin over for two. King sends him flying with a beal and a nasty chop knocks Allin outside as we take a break. Back with Allin getting crotched on top and no commentary for some reason. King knocks him off the top for two but a super Code Red gives Allin two. King gets knocked outside for a Coffin Drop, followed by a second one to leave King laying. Back in and another Coffin Drop is countered into a choke but Allin slips out. That just earns him a Ganso Bomb to give King the win at 9:36.

**Rating:** B-. These two work well together but that's an interesting way to go with Allin, who seemed like he was getting ready for a World Title chase. Maybe that's where they're going anyway, but he's on quite the losing streak on the way there. King got to be more of a monster here and that suits him well because...well look at him.

## Gold League Standings

Claudio Castagnoli – 3 Points (4 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 Points (4 matches remaining)

Will Ospreay – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Juice Robinson – 0 Points (5 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 0 points (4 matches remaining)

Ricochet– 0 Points (4 matches remaining)

Post match here is Claudio Castagnoli with a chair but Brody King cuts him off. Castagnoli and King stare each other down to end the show, setting up their tournament match next week.

**Overall Rating:** B. The best thing about these Continental Classic shows is they focus on what AEW does best, which is the in-ring side of things. You get a bunch of clean finishes and good matches rather than trying to cram in as many things as they can. It made for a much easier to watch show, even though it's the first step in a long process. Good show here, and a welcome change of pace from what Dynamite has been doing.

## Results

Shelton Benjamin b. Mark Briscoe – Exploder

Chris Jericho b. Tomohiro Ishii – Lionsault

Claudio Castagnoli b. Ricochet – Lariat

Jamie Hayter b. Queen Aminata – Hayterade

Brody King b. Darby Allin – Ganso Bomb

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# NXT – November 26, 2024: Yes, Him

## NXT

Date: November 26, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Booker T., Vic Joseph

We're still on the way to Deadline and that means we have more Iron Survivor Challenge qualifying matches this week. In addition though, Ridge Holland beat Andre Chase last week to both break up the school (in some way) and become #1 contender to the NXT Title. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Holland beating Chase in a heartbreaking loss.

Chase U's music plays but it's Ridge Holland to crush some more souls instead. Holland gets right to the point by saying "I told you so" and says he's coming for the NXT Title at Deadline. Short and to the point here, which might be best for Holland on the mic.

Men's Iron Survivor Challenge Qualifying Match: Axiom vs. Ethan Page

Nathan Frazier is here with Axiom. They start fast with some grappling but an early Golden Ratio attempt sends Page outside as we take an early break. Back with Axiom sending him into the announcers' table and back inside, where Page kicks him in the mask. Axiom goes for an armbar but Page powerbombs his way to freedom to leave them both down.

Page grabs a waistlock before whipping said waist into the corner for a crash. A twisting backbreaker gets two but Axiom catches him on top with a super Spanish Fly for the same. Axiom goes up again but gets caught with a backbreaker onto the buckle as we take another break.

Back again with Axiom hitting a flipping DDT for two and trying a front facelock. That earns him a suplex into the corner and another backbreaker for another two. A super Ego's Edge is countered into a super hurricanrana and Page is staggered. The Golden Ratio is loaded up again but Page hits a heck of a clothesline for the pin at 16:36.

**Rating:** B. This was a rather good match with Axiom getting the time to show what he can do. At the same time, Page was getting a chance of his own, as he isn't so often known for what he can do in the ring. It worked well here though and they had me invested in what they were doing. Very nice opener here with Page staying around the title scene.

Post match Page brags about his win but Frazier says Page hasn't won anything yet. Page says he just beat the guy that makes the team work but Frazier isn't so sure about that. With Axiom being annoyed, Wes Lee and Je'Von Evans come out to say they'll win. Cue a bunch of tag teams for the brawl with Axiom/Frazier.

Lola Vice and Stephanie Vaquer bicker about who will win the Women's Iron Survivor Challenge but Wren Sinclair interrupts. Vice isn't pleased and promises a beating.

Nikkita Lyons and Ashante Thee Adonis are in the back to talk

about Adonis talking her. Karmen Petrovic comes in to ell at Adonis, with Lyons not being impressed.

### Wren Sinclair vs. Lola Vice

Charlie Dempsey is here with Sinclair. Vice takes her down without much trouble to start but can't get a cross armbreaker. Three Amigos give Vice two but Sinclair takes her own by the arm. Vice fights up and kicks away before they head outside. A stomp on the steps is broken up but Sinclair sends her into the steps. Back in and Vice knocks her silly with the spinning backfist for the pin at 4:26.

**Rating:** C. This was more of a technical match until the big knockout ending, with Vince knocking Sinclair silly. Vice continues to move up the ladder but at some point she's going to need to win something that matters. Sinclair is doing well in this niche of the midcard villain and that is a valuable spot to fill.

Post match Vice calls out Jaida Parker for NXT Underground.

Tony D'Angelo assures Riz that his knee is ok.

Brooks Jensen and Shawn Spears are ready to get the North American Title.

Fatal Influence calls Tatum Paxley a freak but she says their past will haunt them.

### North American Title: Tony D'Angelo vs. Shawn Spears

D'Angelo is defending and Riz and Brooks Jensen are here too. Spears shoulders him down to start but gets hit in the face, only for D'Angelo to bang up his knee again. Another shot to the knee has D'Angelo down and we take a break. Back with D'Angelo pulling him into the post and hitting a superplex for a breather.

We cut to the parking lot where all of the tag teams are

brawling again before coming back to Spears hitting a knee to the face. The Figure Four has D'Angelo in more trouble until a rope is grabbed. Booker declares the match over but D'Angelo gets in a quick spear for two. The spinebuster is loaded up but the knee gives out again, only for a second attempt to finish Spears at 8:33.

**Rating:** B-. I wouldn't have believed it was possible but they are doing a nice job of turning D'Angelo into a star the fans want to get behind. He made a nice come from behind comeback here and won despite the knee injury, which is good guy wrestling 101. This was a good bit better than I was expecting and that's always nice to see.

Post match Spears and Jensen jump D'Angelo with Niko, the driver from a few weeks ago, joining in. They all look at Riz.

The tag teams are still brawling in the parking lot and wreck a car.

A despondent Andre Chase leaves Chase U for the last time...but someone calls to him.

### Women's Iron Survivor Challenge Qualifying Match: Kelani Jordan vs. Giulia

They fight over arm control to start until Jordan takes her down for an early splash. An exchange of near falls goes to a standoff until Giulia pulls her down into something like the Rings of Saturn. A headbutt and headscissors have Jordan in trouble and Giulia snaps the arm over the top rope. Back up and they hit each other in the face for a standoff as we take a break.

We come back with Jordan hitting a jumping kick to the face, setting up a big dive to the floor. Back in and Giulia misses a missile dropkick but counters One Of A Kind into a Hell's Gate. That's reversed with a powerbomb as Roxanne Perez is watching in the back. A hammerlock piledriver drops Jordan but

she rolls into a cradle for two. That's fine with Giulia, who knees her in the head and finishes with a northern lights bomb at 12:30.

**Rating:** B. Jordan is showing more and more potential and putting her in the ring with stars the caliber of Giulia is only going to help her grow. The NXT women's division continues to be its best feature and if Jordan can develop from a good athlete into a good wrestler, she has all kinds of potential.

Ava makes a multi-person match between all of the Iron Survivor Qualifier losers for the last spot. As for Axiom and Nathan Frazier, they will defend their titles at Deadline against the winner of next week's tag team battle royal. Axiom says they might have to wrestle twice, but Frazier points out that Axiom has to qualify first. As the endless bickering continues, Eddy Thorpe goes to yell at Ava, even grabbing her arm. Ava yells at him but some of the people arguing knock a door into her to send her down.

Post break, Shawn Michaels shoves Thorpe against a wall (!) and throws him out.

Here is Trick Williams for a chat. Williams says that Ava is being checked on by medics (it wasn't that big of a bump) before moving on to Ridge Holland ending Chase U. There have been all kinds of people who have given it their all for NXT, even people like Carmelo Hayes. That's why he can't let Ridge Holland become NXT Champion, because everything those people have fought for would go up in smoke.

Cue Holland, who says controversy follows him everywhere...and Eric Bischoff of all people pops up on the screen. He wants a closer look at NXT and is going to do something to make Williams and Holland want to destroy each other. That's one of the most random cameos I've seen in a long time.

Charlie Dempsey tells Wren Sinclair that she's in a last

chance qualifying match next week too. She's nervous.

X-Pac will be here next week too.

### Women's North American Title: Fallon Henley vs. Tatum Paxley

Henley, with the rest of Fatal Influence, is challenging. The fans are behind Paxley to start, even as Henley works on the arm. Paxley flips up and backflips away before going after the arm as well. A butterfly suplex rocks Henley and Paxley kicks her out to the floor, where a Fatal Influence distraction lets Henley get in a shot.

We take a break and come back with Henley punching her down for two and grabbing a chinlock. Paxley fights up and they both try crossbodies for a double knockdown. An exchange of strikes goes to Paxley and something like an Angle Slam gets two. Jacy Jayne offers a distraction so Henley can grab a pumphandle suplex for two. Paxley is right back with a knockdown into a 450 for two but the Psycho Trap is blocked. Henley hits the Fameasser to retain at 10:56.

**Rating:** B-. This was another good match to wrap up the show, with Henley continuing her ascension in the ring. She's gotten that much better in recent months and it's no surprise that she is getting a bit of a run with some gold. At the same time, it still feels like we're waiting on the big challenger to show up and that could certainly cause Henley some problems. Paxley wasn't that top opponent, but the fans were behind her here and that's good to see.

Post match the beatdown is on but Gigi Dolin returns and helps clear the ring to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B. Now this was more like it, with good action throughout and some big moments to make me want to see what is coming. The qualifying matches for Deadline did their job as you had wrestlers fighting to get into a bigger match, with stuff like the Chase tease and Dolin's return, plus the still

bizarre Bischoff cameo carrying the rest. Rather strong show this week and one of the best from NXT in a bit.

### Results

Ethan Page b. Axiom – Clothesline

Lola Vice b. Wren Sinclair – Spinning backfist

Tony D'Angelo b. Shawn Spears – Spinebuster

Giulia b. Kelani Jordan – Northern lights bomb

Fallon Henley b. Tatum Paxley – Fameasser

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# **Daily News Update – November 26, 2024**

Make sure you check out a recent review:

[Monday Night Raw – November 25, 2024](http://Monday Night Raw – November 25, 2024)

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That's One: WWE Championship Match Officially Set For Saturday Night's Main Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-one-wwc-championship-match-officially-set-for-saturday-nights-main-event/>

WATCH: WWE Introduces New Title Before Monday Night Raw, Tournament Coming Soon.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wwc-introduces-new-title-before-monday-night-raw-tournament-coming-soon/>

Their Night: WWE Announces Special New Day 10 Year Anniversary Event, Special Features.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/their-night-wwc-announces-special-new-day-10-year-anniversary-event-special-features/>

One Down: Change Made To WarGames Match At WWE Survivor Series, Replacement To Be Named.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-down-change-made-to-wargames-match-at-wwc-survivor-series-replacement-to-be-named/>

He Did What? AEW Full Gear Match Went On Despite Serious Injury (This Is Impressive).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/he-did-what-aew-full-gear-match-went-on-despite-serious-injury-this-is-impressive/>

WATCH: WWE Releases Backstage Footage Of CM Punk's Survivor Series Return.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-wwc-releases-backstage-footage-of-cm-punks-survivor-series-return/>

Filling The Card: WWE Adds Two Title Matches To Survivor

Series.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/filling-the-card-wws-adds-two-title-matches-to-survivor-series/>

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# Monday Night Raw – November 25, 2024: That's A Lot In One Night

## Monday Night Raw

Date: November 25, 2024

Location: Desert Diamond Arena, Glendale, Arizona

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Joe Tessitore

We are less than a week away from Survivor Series and as of now, we have three matches officially set for the show. That means we are probably going to need some new matches announced, but World Heavyweight Champion Gunther defending against Damian Priest will likely get some attention of its own. Let's get to it.

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

We get a quick preview of the night.

Here is Gunther for an in-ring chat. After a look back at

Damian Priest taking him out backstage last week, Gunther is asked about Priest's claims that Gunther's confidence is slipping lately. Before Gunther can reply, cue Priest to interrupt, saying it's time for Gunther to brag about how he can do anything. Priest says that he is Gunther's problem and now the problem is taking the title. What happens to the Ring General when he loses to a street guy?

Gunther hits him with the microphone and the fight is on, but they go outside where Priest takes over. The Razor's Edge sends Gunther through the announcers' table as Gunther is taken out again. They're making Priest look like a threat to Gunther and that's how the buildup needs to go.

Jade Cargill is officially out of WarGames due to her injuries.

Bianca Belair and Naomi aren't sure who can replace Cargill. Iyo Sky suggests Kairi Sane but the two of them want Bayley. Rhea Ripley comes in to say she doesn't care, as long as they stay away from Liv Morgan. Belair isn't impressed with the "leadership" on Team Ripley.

### LWO vs. American Made

Tornado tag. Mysterio gets knocked down to start so the Creeds can take over on Lee in the corner. Back up and Mysterio helps take Julius out so a springboard moonsault can get two on Brutus. Lee and Brutus go to the corner, with Julius running the corner to superplex Lee back down. Mysterio's attempt at a 619 is cut off with a clothesline and we take an early break.

Back with Julius running Mysterio over again and hitting a 450 for two with Lee making the save. Operation Dragon gets two with Brutus making a save of his own. A double superplex is loaded up but Mysterio cuts it off with a 619 to the legs, setting up a double top rope double stomp from Lee. The referee almost gets crushed in the corner but here is Chad Gable to twist Mysterio's mask around. Julius grabs a rollup

for the pin at 10:46.

**Rating:** C+. They were smart to have the match be all action as it plays to the LWO's strengths, though this feud hasn't played to many strengths at all. It's just kind of been there over the last few weeks and that isn't making me want to see them stay at it. The ending at least gives the Creeds a win for a change, but it's only going to get them so far.

We look at the social media impact of CM Punk and Paul Heyman returning on Smackdown.

R-Truth comes in to the Judgment Day's clubhouse and says they're not a family anymore. Finn Balor throws him out, but R-Truth says Thanksgiving is off (that was funny). With R-Truth gone, Balor rants about the team's recent issues but they can turn it around. They don't have any leaders, but if they listen to him, it will be ok.

#### Bron Breaker vs. Ludwig Kaiser

Non-title. Breaker powers him into the corner and then runs Kaiser over with the clothesline. The big run around the ring to set up the spear only hitting the announcers' table though and we take a break. Back with Kaiser working on the banged up ribs with a seated abdominal stretch. Breaker fights out and hits a powerslam into the super Frankensteiner. The spear is cut off with a kick to the face though...and here is Sheamus to jump Kaiser for the DQ at 8:52.

**Rating:** C+. Yeah that was the most logical way to go here and you can probably pencil in a triple threat for the Intercontinental Title sooner than later. While I would rather have the title match be one on one, there is at least a story here and all three have a reason to want the match. As for this one, Kaiser continues to look good when he is given the chance, as he is better than the average lackey. Breaker on the other hand is an athletic freak, with the explosiveness on that spear looking great.

Post match Breakker and Sheamus have to be held apart.

Post break, all three have to be held apart. The triple threat for the title is confirmed for Survivor Series.

Long recap of Paul Heyman bringing back CM Punk to be the final member of Team Reigns at Survivor Series.

Sami Zayn and the Usos are in the back and they think they can trust Punk, who will sit down with Roman Reigns on Smackdown.

### Tag Team Titles: War Raiders vs. Judgment Day

The Raiders are challenging and Erik runs the Judgment Day early without much trouble. The champs get knocked down again and we take an early break. Back with Balor working on Ivar's neck with a front facelock as Ivar is rather energetic on the apron. McDonagh comes in with a slingshot moonsault and it's back to Balor for the stomping.

A missed charge allows the tag off to Ivar though and house is quickly cleaned. The spinning kick drops McDonagh but here is the rest o Judgment Day for a distraction. The War Machine connects but Dominik Mysterio puts the foot on the rope. Balor grabs a rollup to retain the titles at 9:52.

**Rating:** C+. Pretty standard tag match here though it was nice to see the champions actually defending the belts for a change. They almost never do that, which commentary pointed out. At the same time, the Raiders already lose their big shot, but at least they had some nice wins on the way here. They should be fine with that kind of power offense.

We look at New Day's ten years together.

New Day is ready to get back to where they need to be.

### New Day vs. Alpha Academy

New Day can't even agree on who should start and it's Woods

being knocked into the corner for the Caterpillar. The top rope backplash gives Tozawa the pin on Woods at 1:46. The team is hitting rock bottom and that's what needs to happen.

Post match, arguing ensues and Kofi talks about how he's done everything for Woods. That's why Woods didn't get to call the shots: he's too reckless. Woods takes credit for Kofi becoming World Champion but Kofi says the reason Woods has never won the World Title is he isn't good enough. They're about to fight but agree to see each other at the reunion next week. Dang it's weird to see these guys doing this and dang I'm not sure what's going to happen at that reunion.

Miz sends the Final Testament off to find the Wyatt Sicks. They all leave, and Nikki Cross pops up to scare Scarlett.

Post break the Final Testament and Miz are back, with Scarlett freaking out. Karrion Cross will deal with it.

Before the show started, General Manager Adam Pearce announced the Women's Intercontinental Title, with a tournament starting up next week.

Survivor Series rundown, with LA Knight defending the US Title against Shinsuke Nakamura also added.

Nia Jax is ready to squash Bianca Belair.

The Bloodline is impressed by Roman Reigns scoring CM Punk, but that's the last one they're getting. On Smackdown, Jacob Fatu will smash Jey Uso to get the WarGames advantage.

### Nia Jax vs. Bianca Belair

Non-title WarGames advantage match. Jax starts fast and hits a running splash in the corner to take over. Belair fights up and flips over her though, setting up a dropkick out to the floor. Jax sends her into the barricade though and we take a break. Back with Jax missing a sitdown splash in the corner and missing a charge into the post. A legdrop works a good bit

better though and a middle rope version gets two.

The Annihilator is broken up so Jax heads to the top, where Belair gorilla presses her own (geez). A Samoan drop sets up another failed Annihilator attempt (with a turnbuckle pad being exposed somewhere in there) so they head outside. Jax drops her onto the announcers' table and opts for the countout but cue Bayley to send Jax into the exposed buckle. Belair adds a 450 for the win at 11:08.

**Rating:** B-. Jax's dominance was on display here and it made for a solid enough main event. The Bayley part at the end is interesting, as it makes me wonder if she might have had something to do with Cargill being attacked in the first place. The assist also protects Jax from taking a clean fall so this was well put together all around.

**Overall Rating:** B-. None of the matches were worth going out of your way to see here, but what mattered the most was having Survivor Series get a big push. The women's WarGames has its advantage, Gunther vs. Priest got a nice boost and two more title matches were set. That's an efficient two hours and the show is looking better as a result, Solid work here and Survivor Series has some potential.

### Results

American Made b. LWO – Rollup to Mysterio

Ludwig Kaiser b. Bron Breaker via DQ when Sheamus interfered

Judgment Day b. War Raiders – Rollup to Ivar

Alpha Academy b. New Day – Top rope backsplash to Woods

Bianca Belair b. Nia Jax – 450

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