

Bound For Glory 2025 Preview

I can never remember if I do a preview for this show or not, but it's undoubtedly TNA's biggest show of the year so it deserves some attention. Throw in its connection to WWE via the NXT crossovers and the show is going to be special. There are some NXT stars appearing on the card and that should make for some interesting situations, even if the main event feels easy to predict. Let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Knockouts Tag Team Titles: IInspiration(c) vs. Elegance Brand

This was thrown together just before the show and that's kind of the best fit for it. While the titles are still important enough, it isn't like there is much in the way of a division fighting over them. In other words, it's the same problem that has plagued these things for years. The IInspiration won the titles rather soon, and in theory that should mean something for this match.

I'll go with the champions retaining the titles here, as there isn't much of a reason to put them back on the Brand so soon. Unless the title change was only for the sake of getting the IInspiration, and that didn't need to be the case, I can't imagine such a fast title reign. The titles stay in place here, even if there aren't exactly many teams who can come after them at the moment.

Call Your Shot Gauntlet

We'll get this one out of the way early, mainly because we only know a handful of the people in the match. There are going to be twenty all together, but there are less than ten announced thus far. That is going to make things tricky, as one of those names is some kind of social media person. We don't quite know much about the match and that leaves a lot of this in the dark.

Based on the people involved in the match, I'll go with....geez I guess Mance Warner, who is in the final spot. Odds are this is going to wind up with someone who isn't listed yet (Tommy Dreamer is all but guaranteed to be involved) but based on who is there, I can't picture Nic Nemeth or Joe Hendry getting the win. Either way, just please don't do the cash-in on the main event, unless the cash-in is failing.

Gia Miller vs. Tessa Blanchard

I have no idea why this is on the show. I get the story and everything, but you have a star like Blanchard and she's fighting an interviewer who isn't even a regular wrestler outside of TNA? In theory this is at worst some kind of punishment for Blanchard, but it feels like something that should be on Impact at best. Here we are though, and I'm still trying to get my head around it.

There is no reason to think that Miller is winning here (and TNA is absolutely insane if she does) so I'll go with Blanchard taking it. This is one of those matches that almost needs to have some kind of interference or shenanigans to make it work, because otherwise we could be in for a near disaster. Blanchard needs to win and do something else or just get out of the company, as I have no idea why this is happening.

International Title: Frankie Kazarian(c) vs. Steve Maclin

I didn't even realize this was on the card and that's kind of telling about what it means. Kazarian took the title from Maclin not very long ago and we're getting a rematch, which isn't a bad idea at all. It isn't like Kazarian has had the time to set something up with a new challenger so having him in there against a former World Champion is fine. Maclin has done well in his own right recently so this should be good.

Much like the Knockouts Tag Team Titles, I don't see a reason for the title to change hands so quickly, so I'll take Kazarian retaining. Odds are he cheats to win here, possibly

with someone coming out there to help put Maclin down. It's going to be a good one as both guys are more than solid in the ring and that's a positive thing to have on any card, which is why it's here.

TNA/NXT Tag Team Titles: Hardys(c) vs. Dudley Boyz

It's a tables match (dubbed One Final Table) and...yeah if we just have to do this. I get the nostalgia aspect and all that jazz, but dang it's hard to get my head around the idea that this is the best we have for the Tag Team Titles. Then again, it's not like TNA has ever had any issue with pushing the Hardys WAY too hard so here we go one more time, as the clock is turned WAY back to the year 2000. In New York. In the WWF.

There is pretty much no reason to believe that this is going to be anything other than the Hardys retaining so I'm going to go with the most logical option. It's going to be violent and probably bloody, but at the end of the day, it's not likely that the Dudleys, who aren't even a regular team anymore, are going to win the titles from two big time promotions. Just let them do their nostalgia deal here and move on with the Hardys retaining.

The System vs. Order 4

This is Hardcore War, which is basically WarGames without the cage. These teams have put together a nice story as I want to see them fight, which is a good sign. I'm not sure how much I need it to be hardcore, but it does feel like something that belongs on a show like Bound For Glory. What does hurt it though is that one team feels like it is on the decline while the other is on the rise and that's what brings us to the result.

I don't see much of a reason to believe that the System is winning here so I'll take Order 4 to go over. This is the kind of match where Agent Zero could get some nice shine while Ali gets the win, which should make for a good moment. I'm hoping

that they get to go insane here, as otherwise it's not exactly going to be the most thrilling match, even with Order 4 winning.

Knockouts Title: Kelani Jordan(c) vs. Indi Hartwell

This is another match that feels rather thrown together, mainly due to the issue of Ash By Elegance being taken out of the picture out of nowhere. Jordan has been tossed into the spot and that's about as good as they could have gone. Well granted it might have been better to put a TNA star into the spot instead, but I guess they're going for the idea of a Knockout saving the title. Ignore that it's from a not so evil champion.

So of course I'll take Hartwell to win the title here. Even if she isn't the most thrilling star to see out there a lot of the time, she's the one that TNA seems to be going with at the moment, which means we'll be seeing her get the title. Jordan is little more than a filler, and unfortunately that doesn't leave much in the way of drama about what is likely happening here.

X-Division Title: Leon Slater(c) vs. Je'Von Evans

This is one of those ideas that pretty much sells itself. Here we have two incredibly talented wrestlers getting to go out there and go nuts for however long. It's something that TNA has made work for years and that is what we are likely going to be seeing again here. Evans is someone that WWE clearly wants to push and Slater is someone who TNA is already giving quite the spot, so this should be a blast.

While I could see a slight chance of Evans winning here, I'll take Slater to retain. TNA has lost more than enough to NXT over the course of their time together so there isn't much of a reason to believe it will happen again here. It's a match that should be all kinds of fun and they should be flying all over the place until Slater hits that awesome Swanton 450 to

retain.

TNA World Title: Trick Williams(c) vs. Mike Santana

Here's where we get to the biggest issue: I see a grand total of no reason to believe that Williams has any kind of a chance here. Williams has been the champion for a few months now and the idea has been that TNA needs to get the title back from the NXT invader. That's where Santana comes in, and the fact that he has been built up so well makes it feel even more likely.

This very well might be the easiest pick on the card, as I can't imagine that TNA would manage to screw this up two years in a row. Much like last year with Joe Hendry, Santana is ready to become the top star in the company and that is why we should be seeing a title change. Just go with what it needs to be and make the whole thing into a big happy ending for everyone involved. Unless they end with the Hardys again, which very well may be the case.

Overall Thoughts

I'm liking the show well enough, but as usual, it's going to depend on how the two longer form matches go. In this case that means the gauntlet match and the Hardcore War, which could wind up being long and dull as they have been in the past. If we get the big happy ending of Santana winning the title though, it should work out well enough, as the card looks pretty good. Just make it more about TNA than NXT and everything should be fine.

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

Collision – October 11, 2025: That's A Gamble

Collision

Date: October 11, 2025

Location: Daily's Place, Jacksonville, Florida

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Nigel McGuinness

It's Homecoming, meaning we're back where the show has only been a few times over the years. It's hard to say what we're getting here, but with WrestleDream in a week, I would hope that some more of the pay per view card starts to come together. Hopefully the show is a bit more interesting this time around. Let's get to it.

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

Triangle Of Madness, Harley Cameron, Kris Statlander, Toni Storm, Bryan Keith, Big Bill, Anthony Bowens, Max Caster (bickering with Bowens), FTR, Penelope Ford, Jet Speed and Willow Nightingale are ready to fight.

Opening sequence.

Kota Ibushi vs. Josh Alexander

Don Callis is here with Alexander. Feeling out process to start with Alexander taking him up against the ropes. They do the same thing with the roles reversed and Alexander bails out to the floor. Back in and Alexander shoulders him down but Ibushi slips out of a fireman's carry to send Alexander outside. The slingshot dive drops Alexander again but he's

right back with a DDT on the floor as we take a break.

We come back with Ibushi grabbing a powerslam but getting caught on the top. Ibushi slips out of that and grabs a dragon suplex before kicking Alexander in the face. A standing moonsault gives Ibushi two but Alexander rolls through into an ankle lock. That doesn't last long (it rarely does for Alexander) and he hits a torture rack bomb.

Ibushi shrugs that off and hits a running knee for two more. Alexander is right back with a World's Strongest Slam onto the apron, followed by a running forearm for another near fall. They go up top and crash down to the floor...Ibushi has broken his leg. Alexander wins via a quick countout at 14:01.

Rating: B-. They were getting going near the end here before the injury and egads there is nothing good about that. I'm not sure how much of a future Ibushi is going to have given his injury issues, but odds are this is going to be another long time away from the ring. That's going to be a big change of pace for everyone and hopefully AEW has a fresh idea in mind for where to go next.

Post match Callis grabs the mic and says this is what happens when you mess with the Family. Mark Davis returns to go after Ibushi but Kenny Omega runs in for the save. It was a messy angle, but given the circumstances, I'm thinking that can be excused.

Mark Briscoe knows Kyle Fletcher fears him and it's time for Briscoe to finally win the TNT Title.

Video on Hangman Page vs. Samoa Joe.

Bryan Keith/Big Bill vs. Max Caster/Anthony Bowens

Caster and Keith start things off, mainly due to Caster tagging himself in. Keith takes him down to start but Bowens tags himself in, with Caster kicking some of Bowens' magazine

covers away. A facebuster takes Keith down and it's off to Bill for a change. Caster and Bowens argue over who has to fight him until Caster gets his eyes raked and back forearmed.

A shot to the face staggers Bill though and Bowens comes in with a running Fameasser. Bowens and Caster stare at each other until Bill pulls Bowens outside. Caster gets double teamed and we take a break. We come back with Keith holding Bowens in a headlock, which is broken up so Caster can springboard in to start the comeback. A Death Valley Driver gets two on Keith but Bowens breaks up a top rope elbow. That's enough for Bowens and Caster to argue, leaving Bowens to Mollywop Keith for the pin at 10:20.

Rating: C+. Well, it's better than the five minute challenges and Bowens just floating around with nothing important to do. I'm not sure where this is going, but it seems something like a reunion where they get along in spite of their issues. The team was great in their day and it's not like either of them was doing anything on their own anyway, so this is at least an upgrade.

The Bang Bang Gang is in the back when Bryan Keith and Big Bill run in for the argument.

Anna Jay/Tay Melo vs. Dream Girl Ellie/Carolina Cruz

Jay backs Cruz into the corner to start and a double hip attack crushes her head. A running faceplant drops Ellie and everything breaks down. Some running kicks in the corner set up a Gory Bomb into a knee from Melo for the pin at 2:11.

The Conglomeration is ok while Mark Briscoe is away. They don't like that other Kyle and Willow Nightingale does Briscoe's sendoff. And better than she should be doing.

Video on the Demand vs. Hurt Syndicate, who will fight again at WrestleDream.

We look back at Darby Allin almost lighting a Molotov Cocktail on Dynamite. Because that was a thing. Nigel McGuinness: "They have lost the plot." Allin and Jon Moxley got in a fight at New York City Comic Con as well.

The Death Riders don't think much of Allin, with Pac accusing him of using too many weapons and props.

Toni Storm/Kris Statlander/Harley Cameron vs. Triangle Of Madness

Storm jumps Thekla and knocks her into the corner to start, followed by a Thesz press. Cameron comes in and, after escaping Blue's fireman's carry, hits a basement dropkick. Statlander drops Cameron onto Blue for two but Blue pulls Statlander into the corner. Hart comes in and takes Cameron down with a DDT and we take a break.

We come back with Cameron fighting out of trouble but Blue knocks Storm off the apron. That doesn't last long as Storm is back up and gets the tag to come in and clean house. Storm Zero is broken up and Blue's superkick allows the tag back to Hart. The double suplex is broken up and Storm hands it back to Statlander, who drops Blue onto Hart for two. Everything breaks down and Statlander almost superkicks Storm by mistake so the villains throw them into each other. Thekla spears Cameron for the win at 11:27.

Rating: C+. The Triangle is a good enough team, though I'm almost worried about who is going to join them for Blood & Guts next month. The lineups are still moving around a bit, though Storm and Statlander would make perfect sense. This was a nice way to get the Triangle looking stronger, which has been done fairly well since their debut.

Kenny Omega is sick of Don Callis and is ready to deal with him. Jack Perry comes in and Omega isn't happy, but Perry is sorry for what happened to Kota Ibushi. Perry has his back and goes to leave but Omega wants to know what is going on. Perry

says they have the same enemies, though Omega isn't convinced. He does not have Perry's back, but if Perry wants to prove something, he can do it on Dynamite. This was a more serious than usual Omega.

Kris Statlander and Harley Cameron say things are not getting tense between Statlander and Toni Storm. Cameron says she can't team with Statlander to win the Women's Tag Team Titles but Statlander gets it, as she has to defend the Women's Title. Cameron thinks that means she's a tag team orphan (she manages to make that sound so sad) but Wheeler Yuta interrupts. Storm interrupts the interruption and yells at Statlander before pulling her shirt open.

Here is MxM TV for their casting call. They're ready to fight, as last week the Don Callis Family failed to defeat them, just like the people here failed to make their parents proud.

MxM TV vs. La Faccion Ingovernable

Dralistico takes over on TV to start and drops him with a spinning kick to the head. Guevara comes in for a dropkick but gets to face Maddin, who chokebombs him down for two. Dralistico and Rush come in for a double basement dropkick to Maddin, only for Taya Valkyrie to hurricanrana Dralistico on the floor. Everything breaks down and Dralistico hits a top rope Codebreaker on Mansoor. The Bull's Horns and an ugly Swanton finishes Mansoor at 3:47.

Rating: C+. They didn't have much time here but they crammed in quite a bit with the amount they had. LFI is getting some more attention and television time in the last few weeks, which is only so much of a good idea in a company with multiple big heel stables. TV losing over and over isn't a bad thing, though it feels a lot like what Max Caster was doing a few months ago.

Eddie Kingston vs. The Beast Mortos

They trade running shoulders to start with Kingston getting the better of things. The threat of the spinning backfist sends Mortos bailing to the floor, with Kingston grabbing a headlock back inside. Mortos knocks him down though and we take a break. We come back with Mortos getting two off a running clothesline but missing a running knee in the corner. A hangman's neckbreaker gives Kingston two and they take turns biting each other's hands. Mortos gets two off a spear but he misses a corkscrew moonsault. The spinning backfist finishes for Kingston at 8:00.

Rating: C+. This was the best Kingston has looked since he's come back, which might be due to the match not running very long. At the same time, Kingston got to brawl a bit more here, which suits him that much better. He's still finding his footing after such a long break, but there is only so much you can get out of matches like these.

The Triangle Of Madness is jumped by Jamie Hayter and Queen Aminata. Security breaks it up.

Katsuyori Shibata is back and issues a challenger to LFI for a Trios Titles match on Dynamite.

FTR/Megan Bayne vs. Jet Speed/Willow Nightingale

Stokely Hathaway and Penelope Ford are here too. The women start things off and shove each other away a few times, with an exchange of shoulders goes nowhere. Bayne knocks her down but Nightingale is back up with some clotheslines in the corner. Knight and Harwood come in, with Harwood taking over, only for Knight to fire off some dropkicks. Wheeler gets dropkicked off the apron and Knight hits a springboard clothesline on Harwood. Nightingale Cannonballs Harwood to give Knight two but Bayne shoves Harwood out of the way of a dive.

We take a break and come back with Bailey getting the tag to clean house, including Knight dropkicking Harwood into a

rollup for two. Everything breaks down and Bayne hits a dive to the floor. Harwood brainbusters Bailey for two but Bailey is back with his bouncing kicks. A tornado DDT drops Wheeler but Bayne comes in to forearm Bailey. He takes her down for a change and hands it off to Nightingale, who beats up FTR (to the fans' delight).

Knight dives onto Wheeler as Nightingale spinebusters Harwood for two. Ford's distraction breaks up the Babe With The Powerbomb but the villains get caught in stereo half crabs. Those are broken up so Jet Speed dives onto FTR on the floor. That leaves Bayne to powerbomb Nightingale out of the corner for the pin at 14:41.

Rating: B. This was a fun brawl with Nightingale being strong enough to hang with FTR. That made for some good moments, though Bayne continues to smash through most of the competition. There is a good chance that she'll wind up in Blood & Guts, though after that she needs to win some singles gold in a hurry.

Post match Bayne and Ford go after Nightingale again but Harley Cameron makes the save with a guitar handle.

Overall Rating: B-. Nice show here, though they are banking a lot on that women's Blood & Guts match. It's the dominant story around here and that's kind of an issue, as we don't even know a lot of the lineup yet. You can piece enough of it together from here, but dang that's a bit of a gamble. Other than that, it was the usual midcard content around here, which went well enough, though it was a pretty run of the mill week.

Results

Josh Alexander b. Kota Ibushi via countout

Max Caster/Anthony Bowens b. Bryan Keith/Big Bill – Mollywop to Keith

Anna Jay/Tay Melo b. Dream Girl Ellie/Carolina Cruz – Gory Bomb/knee lift combination to Ellie

Triangle Of Madness b. Toni Storm/Kris Statlander/Harley
Cameron – Spear to Cameron
La Faccion Ingovernable b. MxM TV – Swanton Bomb to Mansoor
Eddie Kingston b. The Beast Mortos – Spinning backfist
FTR/Megan Bayne b. Jet Speed/Willow Nightingale – Powerbomb to
Nightingale

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and
head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap
wrestling books at:

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

Crown Jewel 2025: That Was Special

Crown Jewel 2025

Date: October 11, 2025

Location: RAC Arena, Perth, Australia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

It's time for the annual champion vs. champion show and that should make things interesting. The word there is should, as the build has been hit or miss at best. We have Seth Rollins vs. Cody Rhodes and Tiffany Stratton vs. Stephanie Vaquer, plus AJ Styles vs. John Cena for the last time. Let's get to it.

We open with a video of the Crown Jewel titles being transported from Saudi Arabia to Australia. This aired on

Smackdown.

The opening video focuses on Rhea Ripley (makes sense) and talks about the sounds they make around the world. Those sounds don't need translations because it's real. Now it's Australia's turn.

Roman Reigns vs. Bronson Reed

Street fight and Paul Heyman is here with Reed. Reigns slugs away to start and sends Reed into some buckles before raining down the right hands. It's already time to go outside, which has Heyman waddling away. Reigns knocks him over the barricade and throws some Prime at him, which is quite the product placement. Some trashcan shots to the back have Reed in trouble and they get back to ringside, where Reigns finds a cricket bat and a rugby ball.

Reigns hits him in the back with the bat but poses too much, allowing Reed to run him over. That doesn't work for Reigns, who is back with a posting and some kendo stick shots. Reigns grabs the mic and says if Perth wants tables, they have to acknowledge him. That's at least a smart way to get them brought in so nice job. Reed uses the delay to get in a cheap shot and send the table back underneath the ring. They head back inside where Reed hammers away with chairs.

One of the chairs is set up, which isn't a great idea as Reigns gives him a Samoan drop through said chair. Some rapid fire clotheslines against the ropes rock Reed and a jumping version puts him down. Reed's Jagged Edge gets two and it's time for the stop sign. A chair is wedged into the corner before a release Rock Bottom onto the sign gives Reed two. Reed's charge goes into the chair (of course) but Reed bails outside before the spear can launch.

They go outside and here's Bron Breaker with a Super Spear. A double powerbomb sends Reigns through the announcers' table so cue the Usos (who Reigns didn't want to get involved) for the

save. The 1D drops Breakker but he's right back up with a gorilla press gutbuster to Jey. The Super Spear sends Jimmy through the barricade but Reigns is up to cut off the Tsunami to Jey. Back up and Jey accidentally spears Reigns through a table, leaving the Tsunami to give Reed the pin at 21:07.

Rating: B. I had fun with this and it makes Reed look like an absolute monster. Yeah he had help, but pinning Reigns is a big deal no matter who you are. At the same time, Reigns isn't going to be happy with the Usos for not listening to him and now we'll have some fallout. Good stuff here, and probably the right way to go.

Post match Reigns and the Usos are sitting on the mat, where Reigns yells at them for saying no one thinks he can do this on his own. It only works one way and he doesn't want to see their faces. Fans: "SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE!" With Reigns gone, the Usos argue as well, with Jey saying Reigns is always going to be himself and leaves on his own.

Women's Crown Jewel Title: Stephanie Vaquer vs. Tiffany Stratton

They go with the grappling to start with Stratton working on a headlock but getting reversed into a wristlock. A rollup gives Vaquer two and it's an early standoff. Stratton knocks her down but charges into a superkick for two. Something like a standing STF (that's a new one) has Stratton in trouble until it's broken up to leave both of them down. Stratton cartwheels into an Alabama Slam for two and Vaquer is in trouble for the first time.

That doesn't last long as Vaquer gets in a dragon screw legwhip out of the corner but the knee is fine enough for Stratton to hit End Of Heartache for two. The Devil's Kiss attempt is countered into a boot to the face to give Stratton two more and some frustration is setting in. A Swanton hits raised knees though and now the Devil's Kiss connects. The SVB

gets two but Stratton gets in the Regal Roll. The Prettiest Moonsault Ever misses though and Vaquer's corkscrew moonsault finishes at 10:17.

Rating: B-. This was about what I was expecting, as they had a perfectly fine match but it didn't feel overly important no matter what they were doing. There was no way around the lack of heat on the story and they were running with an anchor here. Vaquer needed the win a lot more than Stratton, but it's not like this is going to mean much in the long term.

Post match HHH presents Vaquer with the title, which is massive on her (or on anyone for that matter). She talks about how this is for everyone and now she is the Crown Jewel Champion.

Paul Heyman and Bron Breakker praise Bronson Reed for his win. Heyman also says no matter what, they cannot help Seth Rollins tonight because he has to win tonight.

AJ Styles vs. John Cena

There's no recap here, which makes sense as even Styles has said there's no story. It's just two guys who have had a great rivalry facing each other one last time. Styles is even in the old school shorts, which I haven't seen him wear in at probably fifteen years. The roof comes off for Cena's entrance as this guy might have a future. We get the Big Match Intros and Styles gets a specialized entrance of his own, being described as the definition of Total Nonstop Action and hopes to get to BEAT UP JOHN CENA one last time.

Styles grabs a headlock before having to grab the rope to avoid an armdrag. The fans are already declaring this awesome and...yeah fair enough in this case. Cena's headlock works a bit better but Styles pops up for a dropkick to cut him down. The AA attempt is countered and Styles hits the sliding forearm for two. Another sliding forearm gets another two but the Phenomenal Blitz is countered with the ProtoBomb.

There's the Shuffle into the AA for two, which shouldn't be a shock as it's only the first finisher. Styles is back up with the fireman's carry backbreaker onto the knee but Cena busts out a Skull Crushing Finale for two more. Styles' torture rack slam gives him two of his own and they have to pull themselves up. A Scorpion Death Drop (without the moonsault) drops Cena for another near fall but the Styles Clash is countered into most of an STF. That's reversed into a crossface but Cena reverses into an Accolade (oh it's one of THOSE matches).

Styles escapes into a Koquina Clutch...which is reversed into the Walls Of Jericho (Cole: "You have got to be kidding me."). Styles escapes that so Cena pulls him into the STF, which Styles reverses into the Clash for two more. Styles tries the Phenomenal Forearm but dives into Sister Abigail (complete with the Kiss) for two and the Fireflies are out. Cena smiles at that and looks up for a second in a great moment. Styles grabs Angel's Wings for two and it's time to strike it out.

Neither finisher can connect so Cena tries a Pedigree, which is reversed into a Deadeye for two. Cena is back up with a Randy Orton hanging DDT and the fans want an RKO. That's exactly what they get for a near fall...so Cena loads up the Punt. Styles counters that into an AA for two as Barrett compares this to watching a video game. The Shuffle is loaded up but Cena reverses that into a chokeslam for two as the fans want a 619. Cena actually does the drop toehold into the ropes and the crowd is ready to lose it.

That's cut off with a clothesline, which is probably better as Cena might have torn everything in his body. The springboard 450 connects for Styles and he tunes up the band for Sweet Chin Music and another near fall. The Phenomenal Forearm gets two more so the fans chant YES. Cena cuts that off with a quick AA for two so he takes Styles up. The super AA is reversed...so it's a Tombstone to Styles, followed by the AA for the pin at 27:12.

Rating: A+. There are certain matches where you just know you're seeing something special and that was the case here. They were out there having a great time and paying tribute to everyone they could think of and it was an instant all timer. In addition, the fans more than boosted this up and took it from something great to something incredible. I loved this.

Post match respect is shown (of course) and even commentary gives them a standing ovation.

We recap Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. the Kabuki Warriors. Ripley and Sky are friends and that's not ok with Asuka, who wants Sky with them alone. Sky is torn and now it's time to fight.

Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. Kabuki Warriors

Ripley somehow gets a reaction that can rival Cena's, which is an amazing feat. The Warriors charge at them to start and clear Ripley out, with Asuka sending her head first into the post. Asuka and Sky have the big showdown with Sky flipping around and tripping her to the mat. Sky hammers away next to the ropes and hits a running dropkick as Barrett has to remind us that this is in fact a tag match.

Asuka is sent outside for a suicide dive but comes back with a hard kick to take over. That's good for an eight count and Sane grabs the upside down triangle choke back inside. Asuka comes back in to yell at Sky and then fire off some kicks before Sane comes back in. Sky rolls over for the tag but the referee doesn't see it (of course) so it's a pair of spinning backfists to Sky's head. Sane sends Sky crashing into the corner for two but she manages a flapjack to Asuka. The tag brings Ripley in and yeah the fans approve.

A running kick to the head gets two on Sane, who has to escape a Razor's Edge. Asuka comes back in for two off a Shining Wizard but Ripley kicks Sane's head off. Sky is back in with a missile dropkick for two more, followed by a top rope armdrag. Over The Moonsault is broken up and Ripley is sent into the

steps, only for Sky to drop the Warriors with an Asai moonsault. Back in and Over The Moonsault hits Sane for two, with Asuka making the save.

Ripley comes back in and gets caught with the assisted Insane Elbow, with Sky making the save this time. Sky hits a painful looking missile dropkick to Asuka and everyone is down. Ripley wins a slugout with Asuka and Sane has to break up a super Riptide. That means a regular version to Sane and Over The Moonsault finishes for Sky at 19:02.

Rating: B. The match went a bit longer than it needed to but this worked for what it needed to be. The fans wanted to see Ripley and Sky gets to knock the Warriors back a few steps. We're all but guaranteed to see Sky vs. Asuka one on one at some point and that should be awesome, with this being a nice stepping stone to get there.

We recap Cody Rhodes vs. Seth Rollins. They're both big stars but Rollins is going nuts because he can't beat Rhodes. The idea is supposed to be that this is about who is the future of WWE but it hasn't exactly clicked. Rollins' self doubt has been a much better way to go and thankfully has become the focal point of the build.

Men's Crown Jewel Title: Seth Rollins vs. Cody Rhodes

Rollins has gear inspired by his previous matches with Rhodes and the camera makes sure to show him taking off his watch. Rollins' headlock doesn't do much to start as Rhodes reverses into a release gordbuster. It's already time for a breather on the floor, with Rollins having to yell at the fans. Back in and they argue a lot before slugging it out, with Rhodes hitting the drop down uppercut.

Rollins needs another breather on the floor, where he gets to throw some things around. He even goes after commentary, which allows Rhodes to send him face first into the announcers' table. Rollins dropkicks him through the ropes and hits a

double stomp to the back for two back inside. A running clothesline gives Rollins two and he counters the Disaster Kick into a sitout powerbomb for two more, which means it's time to yell at the referee.

Rollins starts in on the arm but Rhodes fights up, only to get pulled into the Figure Four. Rhodes escapes and the fans chant for CM PUNK to get on Rollins' nerves. A Vertebreaker drops Rollins hard and the Disaster Kick does it again. The Bionic Elbow sends Rollins outside for the suicide dive, followed by a Cody Cutter for two back inside. Another Disaster Kick is countered into the Pedigree to give Rollins his own two. Rhodes gets up and misses a Cody Cutter attempt, meaning it's a Pedigree into a Stomp for another near fall.

Rollins is stunned so he goes outside to grab his watch but changes his mind and puts it down. The distraction lets Rhodes score with Cross Rhodes for two but Rollins catches him on top. That means Rhodes is tied in the Tree Of Woe for a coast to coast headbutt for two more. Rollins comes up favoring his own arm so Rhodes goes up, with Rollins catching him with a super Spanish Fly for another near fall.

Now it's Rollins going up, with Rhodes pulling him down in a super Cross Rhodes for two of his own. They slug it out until Rollins has to escape a Pedigree before grabbing the watch. The referee is bumped and the watch to the head sets up the Stomp. The Super Stomp gives Rollins the pin at 29:44.

Rating: B. This was WAY longer than it needed to be as it was almost all about setting up the watch, which was telegraphed all the way from the beginning. The problem with the build to this match was Rhodes had nothing to gain, which made Rollins winning almost the only way to go. The match was good, but it doesn't really change anything for either of them, which is the big problem with the whole thing.

Post match HHH comes out to put the title on Rollins. Cathy

Kelly comes in to talk to Rollins, who takes the mic and goes on about his greatness. Rollins hits the catchphrases and Stephanie Vaquer comes out so the two champions can pose to end the show.

Overall Rating: A-. Well, they managed to make it work. This show is pretty much all about the wrestling rather than anything major happening storyline wise and that's ok. Nothing is bad and there's an all time classic with Cena vs. Styles, plus a fun opener and a good enough main event. If nothing else, I'm rather happy because we don't have to act like the Crown Jewel Titles mean anything for another year, mainly because we won't even see the belts. Pretty awesome show here, with a rare instance of a match actually feeling special.

Results

Bronson Reed b. Roman Reigns – Tsunami

Stephanie Vaquer b. Tiffany Stratton – Corkscrew moonsault

John Cena b. AJ Styles – Attitude Adjustment

Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky b. Kabuki Warriors – Over The Moonsault to Sane

Seth Rollins b. Cody Rhodes – Super Stomp

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Crown Jewel 2025 Preview

We're going to a rather different place for this year's Crown Jewel, which is quite the relief as we're away from Saudi Arabia. At the same time though, the Crown Jewel Titles are a thing again, as we have the annual champion vs. champion matches. The two of them have been built up rather differently and now we're going to see happens as we get into the last quarter of the year. Let's get to it.

Women's Crown Jewel Title: Tiffany Stratton vs. Stephanie Vaquer

We'll start here as this match just does not feel important. I get why they have to have it on the card, but it's just not that interesting. Vaquer has been champion for a few weeks now and that doesn't make for a big showdown against a long reigning champion like Stratton. They've been trying and the match should be good, but I'm only getting so much out of the setup.

That being said, I'll take Vaquer winning here, as there is not much of a reason to have her lose in one of her first big matches as champion. Stratton might not be the biggest star in the women's divisions, but she's more established than Vaquer at this point. It should be a nice match and they've been putting in the effort, but I'm just not that thrilled with it, even with Vaquer winning as she should.

Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. Kabuki Warriors

To say the build for this has been melodramatic and over the top would be an understatement, but this is more about getting Ripley on the card in her home country. That's the kind of thing that should make for quite the reaction but thankfully she has also been tied into the story rather well. It's the idea of Sky being torn between her friend in Ripley and someone who has been so important to her career in Asuka.

I'll go with the Warriors to win here, as they're being turned into quite the force on Raw and need this kind of win to move forward. You can have Sky get pulled in different directions and ultimately get caught, likely with some mist, to wrap it up. WWE isn't crazy enough to have Ripley take the fall here and while there is a chance she Riptides Sane into next week, I'll go with the Warriors getting the win.

Roman Reigns vs. Bronson Reed

This is a rematch from earlier this year in France and in this case it's a street fight, which should play into both of their strengths. The interesting thing here is that it started over Reed stealing Reigns' shoes and has turned into quite the feud as a result. Reigns has already been put out on a stretcher by Reed so he has even more of a reason to want revenge, which should help as well.

Give me Reigns to win here, as taking Reigns out once is a big enough deal and I can't imagine that Reed is going to get to do it again (even if Reed didn't win in the first place). Reigns isn't around all the time and oddly he kind of needs the win to show that he's still a force. Let him take a beating and then make the big comeback to win before moving on to...whatever it is that's next for him.

John Cena vs. AJ Styles

Styles kind of summed up the issue with this match on Raw, as he said there isn't exactly a story to the whole thing. It's a match that is taking place because Cena is ending his career soon (as is Styles) and the fans wanted to see it one more time. That's not a bad thing at all as these two have quite the history together. The quality isn't going to be an issue here and that should make for quite the match.

As for a winner though...I'm honestly not sure. Cena winning would make the most sense, but I said the same thing last month against Brock Lesnar. They might be doing something

where Cena goes on a losing streak before his big final match in December, though that's quite the odd way to go. I'll take what feels like the safe bet here and say Cena, even if it's a pick I am not confident about whatsoever.

Men's Crown Jewel Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Seth Rollins

This is a very different story than what is being done with the women's version, but it's also not a traditional story in the slightest. The interesting thing here is that Rhodes is barely a factor in the whole thing. Instead, this has been almost entirely about Rollins and his self doubt about whether or not he can beat Rhodes. That makes for a unique situation and I'll take that over what we usually get with this kind of a match.

I can't imagine Rollins losing again, mainly because Rhodes has absolutely nothing to gain by winning. Rhodes won this thing last year and has beaten Rollins time after time. There is pretty much no need for him to win here so I'll take Rollins, who actually needs to win this match. I know that's been thrown around a lot, including by me, but it seems to really be the case this time around.

Overall Thoughts

I have never cared about this champion vs. champion stuff and that is really the case again here. WWE has shown that these matches mean next to nothing and that doesn't make for an interesting build. Hopefully the wrestling can overcome that and I'm sure a red hot crowd will help, but there is only so much you can do when the stakes do not feel like they matter whatsoever. With no real titles on the line, the stakes couldn't feel much lower and it is going to take a lot of work to overcome that issue.

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and

head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Smackdown – October 10, 2025: They Should Go To Australia More Often

Smackdown

Date: October 10, 2025

Location: RAC Arena, Perth, Australia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We're on the road (and likely a boat or plane) this week as the show comes to Australia. In addition to being in a special location, we are also about twelve hours away from Crown Jewel, which should mean a strong push towards the pay per view. The Tag Team Titles are on the line as well here so let's get to it.

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

We open with a look at the Crown Jewel titles being flown from Saudi Arabia to Australia for the show. So they can do this but not have them show up on Raw or Smackdown one time?

The men's Crown Jewel title is in the ring and here is Cody Rhodes for a chat. Rhodes says we can talk about Seth Rollins, who has a doom and gloom thought about their upcoming Crown Jewel match. Then Rhodes heard Paul Heyman talking about the match and maybe Rollins is right. Maybe Rhodes is Rollins' Achilles heel and maybe getting rid of the Vision is his

responsibility. He thinks the people here love WWE (and the fans sing his name) and knows that there are people here who are ready to take this title from him or become the new star of the company.

He's talking about people like Randy Orton, Rhea Ripley, Roman Reigns, Jey Uso or CM Punk, but he could be talking about Rollins as well. The fans boo and chant something about Rollins. Rhodes says he's going to need Michael Cole to translate it. Cole has no clue but hands the microphone to Wade Barrett, who confirms the chant is "SETH IS A WA****." Rhodes (who catches the mic with one hand) says that if the world revolves around Rollins, who is Rhodes in that world? He's the one wrestler that Rollins cannot beat. This is a weird story, as it's pretty much all about Rollins and Rhodes is just kind of there.

Chelsea Green comes up to Stephanie Vaquer in the back and offers her a spot in the Secret Hervice. Tiffany Stratton would never get such an offer, and here is Stratton to scare her off. Vaquer and Stratton still seem cool enough with each other before their match.

Cody Rhodes runs into Jacob Fatu, who says they're cool but he's coming for the title after Crown Jewel. Rhodes: "Good." Rhodes leaves and Nick Aldis comes in to say he needs to talk to Fatu tonight. That's fine with Fatu and Aldis leaves, with Drew McIntyre running in to jump Fatu (there is no way Aldis didn't see him). Aldis cuts McIntyre off from crushing Fatu with a cart and McIntyre says he needs to talk to him tonight.

US Title: Sami Zayn vs. ???

Zayn is defending against...Shinsuke Nakamura, who is back with his original music and seems to be the good guy version again. Somehow this is the first time the title has ever been defended in Australia. Not even on a house show? They fight over wrist control to start but neither gets anywhere so

Nakamura kicks him down. The sliding German suplex in the corner drops Zayn again and we take a break.

We come back with Zayn winning a slugout but Nakamura gets in a suplex. A running kick to the face gives Nakamura two but Zayn springboards over him for a hard clothesline. The Michinoku Driver gives Zayn two and he exploder Nakamura into the corner. It's too early for the Helluva Kick and Nakamura hits a middle rope knee to the back of the head for two of his own.

We take another break and come back with Nakamura kneeling him in the back of the head to send Zayn outside. An exploder sends Nakamura into the barricade and the Helluva Kick connects outside. Back in and Kinshasa connects but Zayn gets his foot on the rope. Scorpio Rising hits Zayn and Kinshasa is loaded up again...but someone in a hoodie pulls Nakamura to the floor for the DQ at 15:30.

Rating: B. These two have some excellent chemistry together but there is only so much that you can do when about half of the match is cut off by commercials. I do like that we got to see this again before Nakamura leaves WWE though, as he can still do well with just about anyone. Good stuff here, even with the issues holding it back.

And it's...the returning Tama Tonga, complete with face paint. Cue all three of the MFT's (all with face paint) to lay Zayn out. Nakamura's save is cut off and Solo Sikoa strolls around ringside as the beatdown is on.

Drew McIntyre comes up to Nick Aldis, who makes McIntyre vs. Jacob Fatu next week. Fatu comes in and the brawl is on.

Stephanie Vaquer/Tiffany Stratton vs. Giulia/Kiana James

James offers Vaquer a handshake but then knees her in the ribs instead. Not the best business offer there. Vaquer pulls her straight into the Devil's Kiss and we take a break. We come

back with James hitting a running shoulder in the corner and Giulia's missile dropkick gets two. Vaquer enziguris her way out of trouble though and brings Stratton in to clean house.

Giulia offers a distraction but Stratton kicks James in the face. Back in and a quick northern lights bomb plants Stratton, with Vaquer having to make a save. An Alabama Slam lets Vaquer come back in as everything breaks down. Stratton makes a blind tag as Vaquer dives onto Giulia. That leaves Stratton to Regal Roll James into the Prettiest Moonsault Ever for the pin at 9:29.

Rating: C+. They're trying with Vaquer vs. Stratton but there is little that can be done to make their Crown Jewel match feel important. It feels like something that is only kind of happening and this didn't really make it any bigger. I'll take it over another Nia Jax match, but only by so much.

Post match we get the big staredown.

Charlotte and Alexa Bliss come up to Zaria and Sol Ruca to grant them a Women's Tag Team Title shot. Ruca and Zaria bump into each other, with the champs saying they have no communication. Charlotte and Bliss turn to leave and go different ways. Bliss: "Charlotte, this way." Charlotte: "I knew that." See, that's how you make people like Charlotte. Instead of talking down to everyone and winning the Women's Title over and over, she had a funny little moment with her partner that made her look human. Notice how much easier it's been to watch her with Bliss?

Tag Team Titles: Street Profits vs. Wyatt Sicks

The Wyatts are defending and B-Fab is here with the Profits. The fight starts fast with Gacy being put down and a double flapjack dropping Lumis on top of him. Dawkins Pounces Lumis into the barricade and we take a break. We come back with Dawkins putting both champs on his shoulders (GEEZ) for a double Doomsday Blockbuster. Nikki Cross and B-Fab get into it

on the floor, with Ford diving onto Erick Rowan. Back in and Ford misses his frog splash, allowing the Wyatts to hit the Plague and retain at 6:33. Not enough shown to rate but it was action packed while it lasted.

Post match the MFT's come out for a staredown with the Wyatts and the fans REALLY like this. Nikki Cross gets up close to Solo Sikoa and the MFT's leave.

We look at Carmelo Hayes and Miz splitting up last week.

Miz blames the split on Hayes, who didn't want Miz to be the kind of mentor Miz never had. Melo missed.

Video on Damian Priest vs. Aleister Black.

Earlier today at the Kickoff Event, Seth Rollins walked off the stage with nothing to say. Even Paul Heyman seemed stunned.

Crown Jewel rundown.

Aleister Black vs. Damian Priest

Last Man Standing. Priest shrugs off some kicks to start and hammers away in the corner to knock Black outside. It's already kendo stick time but Black kicks it out of Priest's hands. That earns him a steps shot to the head and they fight up the aisle as we take a break. We come back with Priest kicking a kendo stick away from Black and whipping him into the barricade.

The steps are brought in and Black trips Priest face first into them, followed by a Meteora onto the steps (that looked good). Priest is up at seven and gives Black Snake Eyes onto the steps. They head outside with Priest being sent into the steps over and over. That's good for another seven before Priest Pounces him over the announcers' table. We take another break and come back again with Black having to beat the count for a change. Priest hits him with a kendo stick but Old

School is kicked out of the air.

Black finds a chair on the floor but also finds a chokeslam onto the apron. A Razor's Edge sends Black onto the announcers' table (which doesn't give) for nine so Priest does it again. Black kind of stumbles onto the floor, which counts as standing up so we keep going. They fight into the crowd and go to the tech area, where Zelina Vega pops up from the crowd. Priest will have none of Vega's pleas for mercy but the distraction lets Black throw a fireball in Priest's face. Black Mass off a crate and through a table gives Black the win at 18:15.

Rating: B. This was two hard hitting people beating the daylights out of each other and that worked well for a main event. I like Black and Vega being paired together as Vega going after the United States Title was beyond played out. This could be the trick that Black needs (it certainly worked for Andrade back in the day) so hopefully everyone can move on.

Black and Vega mock the injured Priest to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. Rather strong show this week, even with the less than thrilling Crown Jewel being the focus. I liked the refocus on the MFT's, who are fine as a midcard monster group, as they've been away long enough now. Just get us through the pay per view and build on what you did here, as the non-Crown Jewel stuff was quite good.

Results

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Sami Zayn via DQ when Tama Tonga interfered

Tiffany Stratton/Stephanie Vaquer b. Giulia/Kiana James – Prettiest Moonsault Ever to James

Wyatt Sicks b. Street Profits – Plague to Ford

Aleister Black b. Damian Priest when Priest couldn't answer the ten count

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Impact Wrestling – October 9, 2025: Preview Bound

Impact Wrestling

Date: October 9, 2025

Location: Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

It's the first show after the Showdown with NXT, but more importantly it's the last show before this weekend's Bound For Glory. That should make for a big night, though odds are we'll be having a lot of talking. In addition, we have Eric Young vs. Joe Hendry II in a No DQ match. Let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Opening sequence.

Here is Trick Williams for a chat. Williams brags about his greatness before saying that Mike Santana is a fighter, which Williams can respect. Santana has a story but you also have to be the best for business, which is Williams. Cue Santana, who

tells Williams to shut up in Spanish. Santana talks about the issues he's had before, including telling his daughter that her dad was an addict. He has everything to gain, but Williams says after Sunday, Santana will be "bound for rehab".

Santana isn't phased by the words because he sees fear in Williams' eyes. Williams is a one TRICK pony and after Bound For Glory, he'll be bound for developmental while Santana is the World Champion. Santana feels like an absolute layup to win the title, and at this point he pretty much has to if he wants to have any kind of an important career.

Tessa Blanchard talks about Gia Miller being a big fan who tried to do everything Blanchard had done. Miller went off to train with Mike Jackson of all people and look where she is. Miller is happy with what she did and is ready to beat Blanchard up at Bound For Glory.

Ryan Nemeth vs. Matt Cardona

Nic Nemeth is here too. We get the pose off, which goes to Cardona (shocking I know) before he grabs a facebuster and clotheslines Ryan outside. The dropkick through the ropes connects but Nic's distraction lets Ryan grab a neckbreaker on the floor. That's only good for a nine on the floor and a short DDT gets two back inside. Ryan takes too long posing (again) and gets dropkicked so Nic trips Cardona up. That's good for an ejection and the distraction lets Cardona hit Radio Silence for the pin at 6:03.

Rating: C. Ryan Nemeth continues to be a great lovable goof who is too stupid to do anything on his own, which is why he lost as soon as Nic left. He's rather good in the role and plays it to near perfection. Cardona getting some wins is fine as he's a star in his own right, though I wouldn't bet on it going too far.

The Rascalz talk about Trey Miguel (allegedly) superkicking Zachary Wentz last week. Wentz eventually forgives them and

then they smoke, which makes them reveal that their contracts are up by the end of the year.

Mara Sade talks about being inspired to be here by Jazz and now she wants to be an inspiration to young girls. That's a nice sentiment.

JDC vs. Mustafa Ali

The System and Order 4 are here too. JDC starts fast and knocks him to the floor, followed by a powerslam for two back inside. Ali tries a springboard but gets dropkicked outside. The seconds offer a distraction though and Ali scores with a big suicide dive. We take a break and come back with Ali missing a 450 and getting sent hard into the corner.

JDC hits some running elbows in the corner and a Falcon Arrow gets two. Down And Dirty is loaded up but Ali rolls outside, where JDC hits a big flip dive. The big brawl breaks out on the floor and Agent Zero drops JDC onto the apron. That's enough to set up the 450 to give Ali the pin at 10:31.

Rating: C+. JDC was working hard here and it was nice to see, as he can go rather well when he gets the chance. At the same time, Ali was his usual self and it made for a nice match. The whole thing was just a big preview for everything with the Hardcore War at Bound For Glory and I'm curious to see where it goes, so nice job with warming it up here.

Post match the System chases Order 4 away.

Long recap of NXT Showdown, with TNA doing fairly well, going 2-2.

Santino Marella brings out Kelani Jordan and Indi Hartwell for the contract signing for the Knockouts Title match. Before that can go anywhere though, here is the Personal Concierge to say that none of this matters because it isn't about the Elegance Brand. Marella signs something about a rematch clause

before Hartwell goes off about everything she has given up to be here. Jordan talks about how she had a chance to win a title and took the shot. Hartwell says her family is flying in from Australia to see her win and they both sign.

Video on the Hardys vs. Team 3D, looking at their history and similar career paths to get them here. They talk about their kids wanting to see them, with Jeff Hardy's daughter talking about how much she loves watching her dad. They've done this for a long time and it ends here.

Here is Leon Slater for a chat. This has been the best year of his life and he can't believe the things that have happened to him. He grew up without a father figure and never thought he was good enough. Now he's a champion and he's following the legacy of people who paved the way here, like Chris Sabin and AJ Styles. Je'Von Evans isn't coming to take this from him because this is for all of the days that he stayed up crying to his mom, wondering if anyone was coming home. If you think you're taking this from him, you're crazy. Really good emotional stuff here and it made me more interested in the match.

Bound For Glory rundown.

Joe Hendry vs. Eric Young

No DQ. Hendry knocks him outside to start but Young is back in to slug away. They're on the floor again with Hendry whipping out a bunch of weapons, including a trashcan to Young's head. Young knocks him back down and chokes with a chain, which he wraps around his fist but punches the post by mistake. A piledriver onto the steps is countered with a backdrop and we take a break.

We come back with the fight on the stage, with Young quickly being thrown off of it. They brawl into the crowd with Young getting the better of things as they come back to ringside. Young wedges a chair into the corner and is of course sent

face first into it as a result. Hendry fights back with a cookie sheet and Angle Slams Young onto a chair for two. Back up and Young kicks him low and hits a piledriver onto the chair for the pin at 14:25.

Rating: B-. This is pretty much it for Hendry in TNA right? I know he'll probably still be around for a few more months, but it's hard to imagine him being much of anything important on the way down. Granted it's clear where he'll be winding up next, but that's going to be a hit for TNA going forward. Throw in Young seemingly getting a bigger spot and it's going to be rough.

We get a long video on Mike Santana (narrated by Konnan), who has worked hard to get here and gambled on himself to get here. He's here for the right reasons while Trick Williams is only here for the money. Konnan talks about how Santana is representing the Latinos and says something in Spanish to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. This show was absolutely not about the wrestling and while that's often annoying, it's what makes the most sense here. Instead, this was about firming up everything that has already been set for the pay per view, which went pretty well. The main event was fine, even if a bit sad as Hendry seems practically done and that's going to be a loss. Not a must see show, but that Slater promo and some of the video packages are worth a look.

Results

Matt Cardona b. Ryan Nemeth – Radio Silence

Mustafa Ali b. JDC – 450

Eric Young b. Joe Hendry – Piledriver onto a chair

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and

head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Ring Of Honor – October 9, 2025: Of Course Those Are The Good Parts

Ring Of Honor

Date: October 9, 2025

Location: RP Funding Center, Lakeland, Florida

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's another week of Ring Of Honor and that means we're likely to get about the same things we get here most of the time. That doesn't make for the most exciting shows but some of them can work pretty well. If nothing else, maybe we can find out an idea of when we'll see the next first round match in the Women's Pure Rules Title tournament. Nah I don't believe it either. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a quick preview of the IWGP Women's Title match.

Opening sequence.

We run down the card.

We're mixing it up a little bit. From Arena Mexico in Mexico City.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Hechicero vs. Bandido

Bandido is defending. They go technical to start with Hechicero taking him down and cranking on the arm. That's reversed into a bow and arrow but Hechicero reverses into a surfboard. Bandido reverses into one of his own, which is escaped as well so Bandido spins him around into an armbar. They go to a standoff before an exchange of rollups gets two each. That's enough for Hechicero to bail out to the apron so we can reset a bit.

Back in and Bandido gets two off a sunset flip before a hurricanrana drops Hechicero again. Hechicero is able to send him to the floor, setting up a big dive. Bandido is draped over the barricade for a running knee and they have to run back inside to beat the count. Hechicero starts in on the arm and the shoulder is looking banged up. They go back outside with Bandido being sat on the barricade but Hechicero...I think misses a dropkick but it was close.

Either way, Bandido is fine enough to hit a shooting star off the apron, followed by a frog splash for two back inside. A backbreaker gives Hechicero two of his own but he hurts his knee in the process. Bandido is back with the gorilla press into another frog splash for another near fall. Hechicero goes back to the arm and sends Bandido outside, where the trainer seems to pop the shoulder back into place.

We pause for the shoulder to be taped up, which Bandido rips off. Well that's just wasteful. They trade some running shots to the face and Hechicero's knee is banged up, meaning Bandido can grab a poisonrana. Hechicero is smart enough to go back to the arm, followed by the headscissor driver for two. Bandido pops back up with the X Knee but can't hit the 21 Plex. Instead he settles for a leg trap rollup to retain at 22:03.

Rating: B+. It wasn't quite as good as their classic at Death Before Dishonor but it was more than enough to keep my interest. The shoulder giving out was a great obstacle for Bandido to overcome and Hechicero tormenting Bandido was worth

seeing. Very good match here and a rather nice surprise compared to the usual stuff around here, with the venue making it even better.

We recap Skyflight losing but now they want the Trios Titles.

Shane Taylor vs. Beef

Taylor has the rest of the Promotions with him and fires off the left hands to put Beef into the corner. Beef avoids a charge though and hammers away, only to be sent crashing to the floor. Back in and Taylor fires off some knees but Beef cartwheels away and hits a dropkick. The release Rock Bottom cuts that off though and Taylor's splash gets two. The really big right hand knocks Beef cold at 4:18.

Rating: C. This was a hoss fight and it worked well enough to make Taylor look good. Beef isn't going to win anything important anytime soon so he can put Taylor over without losing anything. Well other than the match but that kind of goes without saying. If nothing else, at least Taylor is finally doing something after years of living off that TV Title reign.

Post match the Promotions beat Beef down until the Workhorsesmen make the save. LFI run in to drop the Workhorsesmen though.

Billie Starkz vs. Viva Van

Starkz has to wrestle her way out of a wristlock as commentary says Starkz might still be in a Pure Rules mode. She's wrestled two Pure Rules matches ever and the most recent was about a month ago. Sweet goodness this Pure Rules stuff is making everything around here dumber. Van gets in a headbutt, followed by a running hurricanrana. A faceplant drops Van and Starkz hammers away but stops to yell at the referee (and at Van, whose face she hates). Starkz kicks her down but the Swanton hits raised knees. Not that it matters as she punches

Van down and hits the Swanton for the win at 6:31.

Rating: C. The match was fine, but just hearing about the Pure Rules Title is getting annoying at this point. We're coming up on two months since the first tournament match, as well as six months since the tournament was first announced. It means next to nothing in the first place, but we keep having to hear about it week in and week out. Drop the thing or just have the matches already, because this is turning into even more of a joke than it was in the first place.

We go to QTV, who talk about the Costco Guys getting challenged to a tag match at Full Gear. Big Boom AJ comes in and asks if QT Marshall is eating a chocolate cookie. Apparently this is his way of asking Marshall to be his partner.

Last week, Sareee and Alex Windsor won a tag match.

Spanish Announce Project vs. Logan Cruz/Tyshaun Perez

Angelico and Perez trade wristlocks to start and it's off to Serpentico with a top rope double stomp to the arm. Serpentico gets hiptossed onto Cruz but he's taken into the corner. Perez's standing moonsault gets two but a double belly to back suplex is escaped. Angelico comes back in for some kicks to the head, followed by a cloverleaf lock to make Cruz tap at 5:18.

Rating: C. For the life of me I do not understand the thinking with the Project. They're a fine enough team and yet they never do anything around here. Either put them into the title picture or stop putting them out here, because otherwise they're just making these shows longer week after week.

The Frat House invaded this week's Jacksonville Jaguars game.

We actually preview some of next week's show, including a quick video on Shannon Moore, who debuts next week.

Blake Christian is ready to beat up a has been like Moore.

IWGP Women's Title: Sareee vs. Alex Windsor

Sareee is defending. They fight over a lockup to start and Sareee goes to the ropes for an early break. An exchange of armdrags means it's a standoff so Windsor fires off a forearm. Sareee is right back with a running dropkick but Windsor hammers her down. Some shots to the back have Sareee in trouble but she's right back with the Black Widow. That's broken up as well so Windsor sends her outside for a flip dive from the apron.

Back in and Sareee knocks her down again for a middle rope double stomp and two. Windsor knocks her right back down and the Sharpshooter goes on. Sareee is out of that again so it's time to trade forearms. Then they trade slaps until Sareee sends her into the ropes for the hard running dropkick.

A top rope double stomp gets two on Windsor, who plants her down with a powerslam for two more. Another Sharpshooter attempt is broken up so Windsor grabs a twisting superplex for another near fall. Sareee makes the rope and fires off a bunch of headbutts to put Windsor down. A Rock Bottom suplex finishes for Sareee at 13:42.

Rating: B. Good match here, and it's nice to actually see what Sareee can do instead of just hearing about it. She didn't get to do much of anything last week so it's nice to have her mixing it up in the ring this time instead. I could go with commentary not acting like the IWGP Women's Title is more important than either the AEW or ROH Women's Title, but at least the match was good.

We get a handshake to wrap up the show.

Overall Rating: B. The two feature matches were more than good enough to make up for the not so interesting midcard stuff. Ring Of Honor has its usual issues, which means it's no

surprise that the best parts are either not from around here or taking place elsewhere. I'll take that for a one off show, but the usual ROH stuff was as uninteresting as ever.

Results

Bandido b. Hechicero – Leg trap rollup

Shane Taylor b. Beef – Right hand

Billie Starkz b. Viva Van – Swanton

Spanish Announce Project b. Logan Cruz/Tyshaun Perez – Cloverleaf lock to Cruz

Sareee b. Alex Windsor – Rock Bottom suplex

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

Smackdown – September 26, 2008: He Doesn't Seem Merciful

Smackdown

Date: September 26, 2008

Location: Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Jim Ross, Tazz

We're still dealing with undertaker trying to stalk Vickie Guerrero and La Familia, though he might need to have more

than just his arm show up this week. The other big story is Jeff Hardy still chasing HHH and the World Title, with their showdown at No Mercy coming up in less than two weeks. Throw in the question of who gets wrapped in bubble wrap this week and we've got a heck of a show. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Vladimir Kozlov deciding he wanted better competition and taking out Jeff Hardy and HHH last week.

Opening sequence.

Chavo Guerrero is in Vickie Guerrero's office and is worried about the Undertaker choking him last week. Undertaker is coming for Vickie tonight so she sends him to get Big Show. Jeff Hardy pops in and says he wants Vladimir Kozlov but Vickie tells him to worry about No Mercy. Oh and their tag match tonight. Show comes in to put his arm around Vickie. This Undertaker hunts La Familia stuff is really not working.

HHH/Jeff Hardy vs. MVP/Brian Kendrick

HHH works on MVP's arm to start and it's off to Hardy for a top rope ax handle to the same arm. Kendrick comes in and gets headlocked but manages to take Hardy into the corner. That's broken up rather quickly and MVP gets caught with the legdrop between the legs. HHH's running clothesline sends MVP outside and Kendrick gets dropped onto him for the crash as we take a break.

We come back with HHH getting double teamed in the corner, followed by Kendrick hitting a dropkick for two. Kendrick misses a dive though and it's Hardy coming in as JR calls this an "opening main event". I'll let you try to figure that out as Hardy misses a dive of his own for a rather delayed two, meaning MVP can come in. Some knees to the ribs slow Hardy down and Kendrick kicks him in the head for two.

MVP comes back in and slaps on a seated abdominal stretch, which is broken rather quickly. Kendrick hits a dropkick and the Whisper In The Wind, with the fans being VERY pleased. The big tag brings in HHH and everything breaks down. Hardy takes Kendrick out and MVP misses a big boot, leaving him to walk into the Pedigree for the pin.

Rating: B-. It definitely felt like a main event tag match and that's a fine enough way to go. Hardy vs. HHH is already set for No Mercy and this was a way to move us towards the title match. The fans believe in Hardy and while it would have made more sense for him to get the pin, the result is what matters the most.

Video on the Great Khali, who is ready to face Vladimir Kozlov tonight.

Commentary thanks the fans for the CW for the last two years and the people who have worked with them over the years.

Classics On Demand: Sid/Ric Flair vs. Hogan/Piper at MSG. That sounds fun.

Here is Shelton Benjamin for a chat. He brags about being awesome in every way, which are as solid as the US Title on his shoulder. That's why it bothers him to see R-Truth coming out here singing and dancing. What makes it even worse is the fans singing along with him...and here is R-Truth to interrupt. He asks Benjamin what's up and Benjamin, with a bit of a quivering lip, walks out.

Brie Bella/Maria vs. Victoria/Natalya

Victoria shoves Maria down to start but she forearm her way out of trouble. Brie comes in and gets driven into the wrong corner, with Natalya wrestling her to the mat. A snap suplex gets two on Bella and Victoria comes back in for a full nelson. That's broken up and Bella tries an anklescissors out of the corner but gets sent outside. Bella goes underneath the

ring...and comes out from another side WAY too fast, apparently having grown to about eight feet tall and being incredibly flexible. Back in and Bella gets two off an X Factor before Maria's high crossbody connects for the pin.

Rating: C. We're getting pretty close to what is going on here and now it's rather hard to hide the big twist. That's what they're showing here, which makes for an interesting future. It's not like there is anything else going on here, but it's nice to see some non-title feuds in the division for a change. The women can get a lot out of that kind of story, along with just offering some variety.

Video on Vladimir Kozlov.

Vladimir Kozlov vs. The Great Khali

Kozlov goes for the leg to start and gets forearmed in the back to cut that off. Instead Kozlov fires off the headbutts to the chest, only to get chopped in the head. A big boot sends Kozlov outside, where he avoids a headbutt into the post. Cue HHH to stare Kozlov down and Khali gets back inside, with HHH slugging at him. We'll say the match was thrown out somewhere in there.

Post match the double beatdown is on until Jeff Hardy makes the save, with HHH grabbing a sledgehammer to chase the monsters away.

No Mercy rundown.

Chavo Guerrero warns Vickie Guerrero that Undertaker might get to her tonight but Big Show doesn't want to hear this. We actually watch the video of Show beating Undertaker up, which played FOUR TIMES last week. Vickie sends Chavo to the ring for a match, which is quite the surprise.

Chavo Guerrero vs. Jimmy Wang Yang

During Guerrero's entrance, Hurricane Helms pops up in an

insert promo, telling him to run from the Undertaker. Yang dropkicks him to the floor to start but Guerrero is able to dropkick him out of the air. The armbar goes on before they go outside, where Guerrero stays on said arm. Back in and another armbar is broken up, with Yang scoring off a missile dropkick. The running spinwheel kick in the corner sets up a high crossbody for two but Yang misses the moonsault. Guerrero hits Three Amigos into a rolling Liger kick of all things for the pin.

Rating: C+. Yang is one of those valuable people who can go out there and make anyone look good. It's kind of a shame that he's stuck with a comedy gimmick and is little more than existing to help everyone else. You can do something else with him, maybe in a tag team, but that really doesn't seem likely whatsoever.

Post match the lights go out and Guerrero panics.

Smackdown Tag Team Titles: Curt Hawkins/Zack Ryder vs. Colons

The Colons are challenging. Primo and Hawkins start things off with Primo sending him into the ropes and grabbing a jumping anklesissors. Carlito comes in and hammers away but misses a charge into the post, allowing the champs to start in on the arm. A hammerlock and slam stay on the arm, with Carlito being knocked into the corner to cut off a comeback bid.

Ryder slaps on another armbar until Carlito fights up for a sunset flip, only for Ryder to bring Hawkins back in. Carlito is dumped out to the floor and we take a break. We come back with Carlito fighting out of a chinlock and sending the champions (with a loud CRACK) into each other. Primo comes back in to slug away but gets rolled up by Ryder for two. Carlito gets a blind tag though and hits a Backstabber for the fast pin and the titles.

Rating: C. The match wasn't overly entertaining and I rewound the ending a few times as I kept thinking I was missing

something. Carlito and Primo aren't exactly a red hot team but it's not like Hawkins and Ryder were doing anything impressive anyway. It's a nice way to send things over to MyNetworkTV as a title change always feels at least somewhat important.

Minor note: when Carlito gets the pin, he celebrates a bit, which should be the case when you win something. Do that more often.

Post match Jesse and Festus come out with the moving van.

We cut to the back where Chavo Guerrero is panicking over the Undertaker. Vickie Guerrero and Big Show are going to the ring, with Guerrero agreeing to join them out of fear.

During the break, Jesse and Festus moved some stuff into their van, which had Ryan Braddock and Kenny Dykstra.

Here are Big Show and the Guerreros for a chat. After some EXCUSE ME's, Vickie calls out Undertaker, who has physically and mentally obliterated Edge. We look back at Unforgiven (sweet goodness move on) and come back to the arena, where Show promises to destroy the Undertaker.

The lights go out and Chavo disappears...and then Undertaker is choking Guerrero backstage. Show gives chase and we see Undertaker destroying Chavo even more. The screen goes to static so Tazz tries to go interview Vickie, but the lights go out again. Tazz is instantly back on commentary and Undertaker is alone in the ring with Vickie. A Tombstone ends the show.

Overall Rating: C. The title change was a nice moment and Hardy vs. HHH is being set up well, but egads this Vickie/Undertaker stuff is not working. Unfortunately that's one of the dominant stories on the show right now and it's making for such a dull portion week after week. I liked parts of the show, but once HHH and Hardy were gone, the interest went sailing out the window.

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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

411mania.com Exclusive Review: NXT Takeover New Orleans: Two Masterpieces

<https://411mania.com/wrestling/halls-ww-nxt-takeover-new-orleans-review/>

You don't get that kind of thing very often.

Evolve – October 8, 2025: Let Us See It

Evolve

Date: October 8, 2025

Location: WWE Performance Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Peter Rosenberg, Robert Stone

We're rapidly approaching Succession and it's time to find out what we're going to have to push towards the two title matches. I'm not sure if anything else is going to be added to the show but it should be interesting to see how Kali Armstrong and Jackson Drake get ready for their defenses. Let's get to it.

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

Stevie Turner tells us that Keanu Carver is injured and unable to wrestle at Succession. A new challenger will be named tonight.

Opening sequence.

Chuey Martinez brings out Kali Armstrong and Kendal Grey for their face to face meeting. Grey is tired of Armstrong looking so confident after she hurt Carlee Bright last week. Armstrong says bright is full of sunshine and bubbles but there is no room for that in Evolve. As good as Grey may be, Armstrong is just better.

Grey lists off her amateur credentials and Armstrong talks about her own resume in track and around here. Armstrong was one of eight children and was born with drugs in her system but here she is. They stare each other down again to wrap it up. Pretty simple and to the point stuff here and the match is feeling like a showdown.

Tate Wilder is happy with his win but now he wants to be on Succession. Brooks Jensen jumps him from behind to lay him out.

It's Gal vs. Dante Chen

Feeling out process to start with Gal taking him down and doing some pushups on Chen's back. The posing seems to get on Chen's nerves and he makes the comeback, including a dropkick. The threat of the Gentle Touch sends Gal out to the apron so

Chen clotheslines him back over the top.

Gal hits a hard clothesline of his own but again takes too much time posing and gets rolled up for two. A half nelson slam and superkick send Gal outside for the suicide dive. Back in and Gal gets caught up top for a spinning powerbomb, followed by the Gentle Touch for the pin at 5:48.

Rating: C+. This boils down to one issue: Gal is goofy fun and Chen isn't interesting. I'm not sure what WWE sees in Chen as he has been around for a long time but isn't exactly showing much in the way of standing out. In theory this is moving Chen towards title contention, and I really don't get why.

High Ryze is ready to show what they can do.

The Vanity Project isn't sure what's going on with Succession and thinks the management is messing with them by not naming an opponent. Jackson Drake credits Bryce Donovan for getting rid of Keanu Reeves and everyone seems happy. Well not Donovan, though he does smirk a bit.

High Ryze vs. Aaron Rourke/Marcus Mathers

Wes Lee is here with High Ryze. Igwe shoulders Rourke in the corner but Rourke jumps over him and brings Mathers in for a running dropkick. DuPont tags himself in though and a big boot puts Mathers down so the villains can take over. A double forearm drops Mathers again and we hit the chinlock, only for Igwe to miss a charge into the post. Rourke comes back in to clean house, including an elbow to Igwe. Mathers hits a middle rope Stunner into Rourke's Molly Go Round for two. Rourke misses a moonsault though and gets Heartstoppered for the pin at 7:01.

Rating: C+. We're going to need some Tag Team Titles around here and that's not a bad idea. There are several tag teams around here (though Rourke and Mathers aren't among the best) but they don't have much to fight over. It's only about seven

months into Evolve though so we very well could see such an announcement, even at Succession.

Jax Presley and Harley Riggins want one more match with Adrenaline Drip. They tell Stevie Turner that Robert Stone would give them the match, which is enough for Turner to make it happen.

Wendy Choo vs. Nikkita Lyons

Lyons backs her into the corner to start but gets taken down with a headlock takeover out of the corner. A crucifix gives Choo two and she hits a dropkick. Lyons shrugs that off and they head outside, where Choo gets kicked down. Back inside and Lyons chokes on the ropes, followed by some hip drops in the corner.

A suplex gives Lyons two and she grabs the reverse chinlock. That's broken up and Choo grabs an ankle scissors into some running shots in the corner. Lyons tries a quick sunset flip but gets pulled down into a rollup for two. A tiger bomb gives Lyons two more and she breaks out of a Dirt Nap attempt. The Vader Bomb misses though and Choo gets the Dirt Nap to make Lyons tap at 7:00.

Rating: B-. Not a bad match at all here, as Choo having something of a personality and not doing a bunch of weird glares at the camera while holding a pillow. She has the talent in the ring and do fine if she's able to drop all of the weird stuff. Thankfully that's what she seems to be doing and Lyons lost as a bonus.

Brooks Jensen says Tate Wilder is why he hates Evolve. Jensen should be rising up the ranks here but Wilder wins one match and thinks he should be something special. They'll fight next week and this time it's a bullrope match. Wilder has to win that and while he's not the most interesting person, at least he's getting a coherent story.

Here is the Vanity Project to find out who will be facing Jackson Drake for the title. Cue Sean Legacy, who says his issues with Drake have gone back to the first episode of Evolve and even before. The perfect way to go would be to have Legacy take the title. Legacy looks into the camera and promises Keanu Carver a title shot but here is Edris Enofe to jump Legacy from behind. Legacy is sent into the video board to mess it up. Drake: "That sucks. Bye Sean!"

Drake says there is no next challenger so next week, it can be the Vanity Project Appreciation Night. He lists off his teammates and praises everyone but Bryce Donovan, who picks up the contract and tells Drake to shut up for once. Donovan calls them all the worst human beings he has ever met. Drake can solve his own problems because Donovan is done with the Vanity Project. Donovan says he's coming for the title at Succession and clears the ring, including a chokeslam to put Drake through a table. That lets Donovan sign the contract. Not the most thrilling story, but they have a connection and that's a good idea.

We run down the Succession card to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. They've done a nice job to set up a three match show and I want to see where things go at Succession. The big matches are feeling important and hopefully they live up to their hype. There was only so much in the way of good matches here though, as the build was the important part. They've set next week up and that's what matters even more, so the action can be excused at least a bit.

Results

Dante Chen b. It's Gal – Gentle Touch

High Ryze b. Marcus Mathers/Aaron Rourke – Heartstopper to Rourke

Wendy Choo b. Nikkita Lyons – Dirt Nap

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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