

# Impact Wrestling – November 23, 2017: Perfectly Harmless Fun

## Impact Wrestling

Date: November 23, 2017

Location: Aberdeen Pavilion, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, Josh Matthews

We're getting into the swing of these Canadian tapings but there's a good chance this show isn't going to mean much for the most part due to the holiday. The big story tonight is the return of Johnny Impact and Alberto El Patron after one full week away. It's hard to say what they'll do, though I'd put my money on brawling. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tonight, the Turkey Bowl is back. There's a match between a bunch of people and the loser gets put in a turkey suit.

The Turkey Bowl is so cool that we need to go back to the 2008 version!

### Sheik Abdul Bashir vs. Rhyno vs. Alex Shelley

Bashir is X-Division Champion and helps Shelley for a double team on Rhyno. That goes nowhere as Rhyno easily slugs both of them away and scores with a belly to belly for two on Bashir. Clipped to Rhyno getting double teamed again but the others keep getting in an argument over scoring the pin (and a \$25,000 prize). Bashir rolls Shelley up for two but gets caught in a super atomic drop. Rhyno uses the distraction to Gore Shelley for the pin at 2:48 shown.

Post match, Mick Foley tells Shelley he has to put the suit on but Shelley doesn't want to. See, the women won't be happy and that would hurt the ratings. That's cool with Foley, but Shelley is fired if he doesn't do it. Shelley finally puts it on and Foley makes

gibblet jokes. Foley: "Is that a gizzard in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?" The suit goes on and more jokes are made. If this is the case, I can go with it more than holding a regular show on Thanksgiving.

Robert Irvine has prepared a Thanksgiving dinner and I think you know where this is going later in the night.

We hear some Thanksgiving memories from wrestlers.

Eli Drake and Chris Adonis interrupt the Thanksgiving festivities and tells a story about his daddy's mashed potatoes, which is one of the things his family does best (along with beating people up of course). The Turkey Bowl is now Eli Drake's Gravy Train Turkey Trot and we'll be drawing some random names for the five on five match. One team will be captained by Eddie Edwards.

Eddie is excited and says this is a big check off his wrestling bucket list.

The other captain is El Hijo Del Fantasma, who says Thanksgiving doesn't mean anything in Mexico. It sounds like a party though and every party needs chocolate.

Video on the upcoming Knockouts Title tournament. It ticks Sienna off, making me think that Sienna has some intelligence to her.

Wrestlers list their favorite Thanksgiving foods.

Preview for next week's show, including Johnny Impact vs. Alberto El Patron.

From 2011.

### Robbie E. vs. Eric Young

Joined in progress with Robbie beating up the turkey suit before dropping a middle rope elbow for two. We're clipped to Young hitting a piledriver for the pin at 1:12 shown.

Post match, Robbie is still out so he can't put on the suit. Therefore, Young says Robbie's buddy Robbie T. can put it on instead. The referee says that if T. doesn't, E. loses the TV Title (yes they had the TV Champion lose a match like this) so the suit

goes on.

Allie joins Team Edwards and is really excited to get to wear the suit...until she finds out she has to lose first. She isn't interested.

Caleb Konley joins Team Fantasma and Trevor Lee isn't too happy with it.

Richard Justice is on Eddie's team but he's worried he can't fit in the suit.

Various wrestlers are thankful for various things.

KM is on Fantasma's team but doesn't care about anything other than impressing American Top Team.

Laurel Van Ness is also on Team Edwards (despite being a villain) and makes turkey noises.

Wrestlers talk about Thanksgiving memories.

From 2016.

#### Robbie E. vs. Grado

I think we're in comedy match territory. They trade fists to start but it's a fist pound instead. That leads to back to back nipple twists before a double clothesline puts both guys down. Both guys try rollups with feet on the ropes but enforcer Aiden O'Shea cuts them off. Grado tries a sunset flip but Robbie sits on him for the pin at 2:49.

O'Shea makes Grado put the suit on but he starts to get into it. Dancing ensues.

Fallah Bahh is in the match as well. I'm assuming on Team Fantasma if they're still alternating picks. Bahh can only say his last name and gobble gobble.

Garza Jr. is in as well and says everyone in the tournament (What tournament?) is underestimating him due to his injury.

The final entrant, and announced as a team captain, is Chris Adonis. Wait so was it five in a row or alternating? Why would they not just

say that the first and last names pulled out are captains? My goodness how can they manage to screw up PULLING NAMES OUT OF A HAT??? Would a graphic have been too much to ask for?

Adonis rallies his team as we're just forgetting the whole "Fantasma is captain" thing.

Team Edwards is ready.

#### Team Edwards vs. Team Adonis

Eddie Edwards, Garza Jr., Allie, Fallah Bahh, Richard Justice  
Chris Adonis, Caleb Konley, Laurel Van Ness, KM, El Hijo Del Fantasma

The loser of the fall wears a turkey suit and there's food at ringside, along with Eli Drake. We're not ready yet though as the teams sit down at the food tables as Drake insists that everyone has to put on the suit if they lose. He has a statement for JB to read, which pretty much just says everyone play nice.

Justice sticks his finger in Konley's mouth to start and gets two off a rollup. Laurel comes in and jumps on Justice's back so it's off to the women for a change. KM and Bahh are up next with some shots to Bahh's head taking us to a break. Back with Bahh crossbodying KM and bringing in Garza...WHO TAKES OFF HIS PANTS! I'm rather thankful.

Garza gets punched down though and it's time for the heel beatdown. Adonis comes in for two off a legdrop and it's time for a bearhug (on a guy with a bad shoulder). That goes nowhere and the hot tag brings in Eddie to clean house. Everything breaks down in a hurry and KM gets crushed between Justice and Bahh.

We get the big crash to the floor and Justice falls off the apron, only to be caught without much effort. Allie dives onto everyone to break up the pile and everyone is down. Back in and Adonis can't grab the Adonis Lock, allowing Eddie to roll him up for the pin at 16:04, meaning Adonis gets to wear the suit.

**Rating:** C-. Oh what were you expecting here? This was all in good fun and nothing more than a comedy match. The match was just there

for the sake of having a one off match for a holiday special and as a result, it's really hard to be harsh on it. Adonis having to wear the suit is fine and it continues a (rather goofy) tradition. It wasn't anything good, but it's perfectly harmless.

Post break, Adonis refuses to wear the suit. Security actually stops him as the referee holds up the suit like an executioner's ax. After a lot of persuading and a GOBBLE GOBBLE (One of us?) chant, Adonis finally puts it on and walks around a bit. Adonis isn't cool with the chants though and the required food fight, with Adonis hitting Drake in the face with a pie, ends the show. This was actually entertaining as they just went with the simple comedy and it worked perfectly well.

**Overall Rating:** C. Just like the main event, this was nothing you needed to see but it's completely harmless fun. I'm rather glad they didn't waste a regular show on a night where even fewer people than usual would be watching. Just let the show be a lighter edition for a change and get back to the regular stuff next week. This was an easy show to sit through and that's all it should have been. If you ignore the more complicated than necessary name drawing system (Just throw up a graphic so we know who is on which side. Or drop the captains entirely as they didn't mean anything.), this was a fun little show and that's a good sign.

### Results

Team Edwards b. Team Adonis – Rollup to Adonis

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# Impact Wrestling – October 12, 2017: Bad and Unacceptable

## Impact Wrestling

Date: October 12, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Jeremy Borash

We're less than a month away from Bound For Glory and some of the card is starting to come together. You can pretty much guess a lot of the things they're going to do, though one question is will Moose manage to do something dumber than walk into an MMA gym alone and pick a fight. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Eli Drake and Chris Adonis attacking Johnny Impact, only to have Garza Jr. interrupt. This sets up Impact vs. Garza for the Bound For Glory title shot.

Garza says he'll win. No dude, you won't.

Opening sequence.

We look at Eddie Edwards winning the GHC Title and Garza trying to win the title. As usual, GFW is really, really overestimating how interesting these other companies are.

Eli Drake is defending the title in Japan this week.

Here's LAX with something to say. They want their title match right now and don't care what rules they have to abide by. This brings out OVE to say bring it, even if it's a 5150 street fight. The champs don't care but Diamante says it's all of LAX vs. OVE at the same

time. The match, and the brawl, is on with the champs getting beaten down, including Dave being sent through a table at ringside.

We look at a press conference announcing GFW wrestlers going over to Tokyo to invade Pro Wrestling Noah. Is it really an invasion if you announce a working relationship and hold a press conference announcing the matches? More on this later, because we're just that lucky.

Video on American Top Team, including them attacking various GFW employees and Moose going to their gym and getting beaten down. This is a compilation of clips and packages we've seen before.

Another video on Garza Jr. By the way it's 8:31 and we haven't had a match yet. I'm not sure if that's a complaint or not.

#### Rosemary vs. Hannah Harper

Red Wedding ends Harper in 59 seconds. Nearly half of that was them staring at each other.

Post match Rosemary calls out Taya Valkyrie for a dance with the demon. Taya comes out and mists Rosemary for a change of pace, followed by the Road to Valhalla.

We look at Moose getting beaten down at the American Top Team facility.

Moose is going back to the facility, but this time he has backup.

Here's Taryn Terrell to tell us all to shut up. She's got a Knockouts Title shot at Bound For Glory but now she wants to focus on Gail Kim. Taryn talks about Gail's husband Robert Irvine and says after she's done, they'll be heading appearing on Divorce Court. Gail comes out and says she won't be attacking Taryn, only to slap her anyway.

Alberto El Patron is back at Bound For Glory. DANG IT MAN JUST GO AWAY ALREADY!!!

Sienna is ready for a mixed tag tonight and can't wait to beat up Allie. One of her partners, Texano, says AAA is awesome. The other partner, Caleb Konley, says North Carolina is awesome.

Grado is very tired and says no more. Joseph Park comes up in an expensive car with a bunch of good looking women. They're just interns, though one of them calls Grado the meal ticket. Grado isn't happy as Park leaves with the ladies.

Wrestlers talk about the importance of Bound For Glory. This is probably the fifth promo for the show in the first hour to go with the 53 seconds of in-ring action.

We're an hour into this show and it's been little more than a recap show so far. 53 seconds of wrestling and an announcement of a tag match for the pay per view. Wrestling Challenge was run better than this.

#### Sienna/Caleb Konley/Texano vs. Allie/Dezmond Xavier/James Storm

We finally break a whole minute of wrestling an hour and nine minutes into the show. Sienna stomps Allie in the corner to start but gets taken down with a clothesline. It's off to Texano vs. Storm but Konley comes in instead. Some villainous cheating has Storm in trouble but Storm is quickly out of a chinlock. A leg lariat gives Texano two and Sienna stomps away as well.

Texano gets dropped again and the diving tag brings in Xavier. Kicks abound and a standing corkscrew moonsault gets two with Sienna making the save. Everything breaks down and it's a Codebreaker from Allie into a Backstabber from Storm. Konley comes back in with a swinging slap, only to have Xavier hit a 619 around the post. Lee breaks up something off the top but it's the Last Call to end Konley at 6:38.

**Rating:** D+. Normally I'm a fan of throwing a bunch of feuds into one match but what happens when the feuds aren't interesting in the slightest? This was more evidence that Bound For Glory isn't an interesting show as the TV building it up isn't compelling in the slightest. There's no reason for AAA and GFW to be feuding and Xavier feels like he hasn't been around in weeks. I'm sure he'll be in the X Title match at the pay per view because that's what they do with that title most of the time. More uninspired booking here, which is becoming a trend.

Here's a slightly different package on the wrestlers in Japan. Some of the quotes and clips are the same.

Yet ANOTHER video on Garza Jr., this time of him in Japan.

This week's Global Forged as this show is allergic to wrestling.

This one focuses on Jon Bolen, the head trainer.

LAX is ready for the street fight.

Moose went to the American Top Team facility again (we've seen the clip of him on the phone at least five times now), though this time he has backup. Fellow MMA fighter Stephan Bonnar (not named until after the segment is over) is there this time though and they have pipes. They walk in and that's all for now.

### Garza Jr. vs. Johnny Impact

The winner faces Eli Drake at Bound For Glory. Feeling out process to start until Impact takes him down with a headlock. Garza sends him outside for a suicide dive as the announcers promise more American Top Team stuff later tonight. Johnny is back up with a flipping elbow off the steps and we take a break. Back with Garza forearming Impact in the corner but LET'S TAKE OFF THOSE PANTS!

Some kicks to the face have Johnny in trouble and they slug it out, followed by a crossbody to put both guys down. Back up and Johnny kicks him down for two more but he has to bail out of Starship Pain. A second attempt completely misses and Garza gets two off a standing moonsault. Garza's missile dropkick gets another near fall but a pinfall reversal sequence goes to Impact for the pin at 13:50.

**Rating:** C+. I don't know how else to say it but no one cares about Garza. He's just a guy who was in the lucha tag team and then he's randomly in the #1 contenders match. A bunch of packages on him for one night isn't enough to make me care about him in this spot, especially when they weren't hiding the fact that Impact was winning.

Post match Cornette comes in to interview Impact but Adonis comes in and breaks a board over his head.

And now, back to the real story with American Top Team and UFC

LEGEND (yes UFC LEGEND I say, along with JB who says it multiple times) Stephan Bonnar. Everyone is gone (it's the middle of the night) so they just break stuff with the pipes instead and Moose steals some MMA belts. They also wreck the merchandise area. This is the way they're hyping up the biggest show of the year people. It's the best idea they have. Moose leaves a note with the receptionist (who didn't say a word while in the same room where all this was happening) to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D-. This is only above a failure because the main event wasn't bad. I just sat through two hours of Bound For Glory ads, the same clip of Moose on the phone saying he needed help, videos that didn't make me interested in Garza Jr. and GFW in Japan. If you take out the commercial from the main event, there was less than twenty minutes of action on the show and less than two minutes out of the first seventy were spent on wrestling.

I know they're strapped with all the taping marathons and such but with this many wrestlers running around, there's really no excuse to have almost no one to put on the shows. Come up with something better than a squash, a six person tag and a really obvious main event. With as many people as they have, including all the talent they bring in, there's not much of an excuse for this. This show wasn't so much bad as it was unacceptable, which is much worse.

### Results

Rosemary b. Hannah Harper – Red Wedding

James Storm/Dezmond Xavier/Allie b. Sienna/Caleb Konley/Texano – Last Call to Konley

Johnny Impact b. Garza Jr. – Rollup

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# Impact Wrestling – September 7, 2017: What's Spanish For Shut Up About AAA?

## Impact Wrestling

Date: September 7, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, Josh Matthews

As the company tries to go a week without some kind of controversy, here we are with more continuing adventures of a bunch of MMA fighters. That's the top story at the moment as American Top Team and Bobby Lashley continue to dominate the show, which seems to be setting up a big deal at Bound For Glory. In actual wrestling news, tonight Eli Drake defends the World Title against Matt Sydal. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Caleb Konley/Trevor Lee vs. Sonjay Dutt/Petey Williams

Dutt armbars Konley to start before it's off to Petey to speed things up. As assisted Sliced Bread #2 gets two on Konley as everything breaks down early on. The villains are put in the Tree of Woe with Petey standing on both of them and singing O Canada. Petey gets caught in the wrong corner for some double teaming, only to slip away for the hot tag to Dutt a few seconds later.

The tornado DDT gets two on Konley and everything breaks down again. Another tornado DDT (this time with Petey being used as a launching pad) puts Konley down again (bad night for his head) and there's the Canadian Destroyer. Dutt's top rope splash puts him away at 7:24.

**Rating:** C+. Just four guys doing moves to each other but at least it was energetic. The division really isn't the best in the world right now and having someone like Williams, who was a star nearly fifteen years ago, isn't the best course of action. Granted the whole thing has been a mess for years now so this is hardly anything new. Nice opener though.

#### LAX vs. John Bolin/Zachary Wentz

Non-title. The jobbers get stomped down in the corner as OVE is watching from the back. Bolin gets caught in a hanging Stunner/bicycle kick combination, only to have Wentz thrown onto him. The Street Sweeper ends Zachary at 1:37. Total squash.

Post match OVE comes out to challenge for the titles but Konnan says they'll do it in the Crash. That's cool with the brothers.

#### Taryn Terrell/Sienna vs. Gail Kim/Allie

Gail goes after Taryn to start but settles for some clotheslines on Sienna. A flapjack cuts Gail off though and it's Taryn coming in for a few cheap shots before handing it right back to Sienna. Taryn's running flip neckbreaker keeps Gail in trouble but she hurricanranas Sienna down and brings in Allie to clean house. Sliced Bread #2 gets two on Sienna as Braxton Sutter and KM brawl to the back. Allie goes up for a high crossbody but Sienna rolls through and grabs the tights for the pin at 4:24.

**Rating:** D+. I feel so sorry for Sienna. She's done what she can but as always, the division belongs to Gail and whomever she's feuding with because this company is obsessed with pushing her through the roof. Even Roman Reigns probably thinks the push is a bit too much. Hopefully they don't give her the title as a retirement present as she never needs to be near the thing again.

Post match Allie gets beaten down until Rosemary comes out for the

save. Cue the debuting Taya Valkyrie for quite the impressive entrance. Taya gets in Sienna's face but knocks Rosemary down instead, setting up a double chickenwing faceplant. You can probably book the six Knockouts tag already.

Eli Drake is ready for Matt Sydal.

Here's Jim Cornette for a chat. Jim praises some of the talent including Johnny Impact before hyping up the main event. Cornette would put his money on Sydal but here's Impact to interrupt. Impact gets straight to the point: he wants the winner of tonight's match. This brings out LAX with Low Ki leading the way.

Cornette doesn't think five against one is a good thing but Konnan gets in Johnny's face to say Impact's opinion doesn't mean anything. What's up with Konnan overlooking Low Ki for a title shot? Cornette says it has nothing to do with them being Latino and Low Ki is in line just like everyone else. The brawl is on with Johnny holding his own until security breaks it up.

Post break Cornette makes Impact vs. Low Ki for the #1 contendership.

Joseph Park tells Grado that there's a big problem with Laurel Van Ness being Canadian. Grado hugs Laurel but the wedding is off. He tells her not to cry but Laurel seems to snap again, despite Grado's high five.

Video on GFW's involvement in TripleMania. There's a focus on Lashley and Moose appearing in a battle royal. It was actually a team battle royal and their partner, Jeff Jarrett, isn't mentioned at all. Moose eliminated Bobby and tensions ran high.

Video on Johnny Impact being so dominant in AAA, where he's a triple champion. Impact successfully defended his titles in a three way ladder match and says his gold means more than Drake's.

Video on the Sexy Star/Rosemary incident from TripleMania as we hit twenty minutes of packages on the show. Sexy Star was never mentioned.

Video on how important the talent relationship between the companies

is.

Next week it's OVE vs. LAX for the titles from Tijuana.

Video on Dezmond Xavier, who credits his military training with getting him into wrestling.

Pagano is coming.

Eddie Edwards is the first American to win the GHC (Pro Wrestling Noah from Japan) Title.

Video on Garza Jr.

Richard Justice is still exercising after being hurt last week.

Matt Sydal is ready to win the title in what is his official cash-in for beating Lashley.

#### GFW World Title: Eli Drake vs. Matt Sydal

Drake is defending and shoves him around to start but Sydal doesn't seem too shaken. Some kicks to the leg set up la majistral for two on Drake as we talk about TripleMania some more. The champ hammers away to take over again as this isn't exactly thrilling so far. A pop up Big Ending (with Sydal flipping backwards to land on his back instead of his stomach) gets two and we take a break.

Back with Drake elbowing him in the chest and hitting a powerslam. We hit the chinlock for a bit before Drake's jumping neckbreaker gets two more. Drake gets posted though and Sydal scores with some chops for a breather. Eli stomps him right back down and grabs a DDT for two.

A kneedrop only hits mat though and Sydal hits a backdrop to put both guys down. Matt's standing moonsault gets two and an ELI SUCKS chant starts up. The top rope double knees put Drake down for two so Adonis throws in the title. Sydal gets in a jumping knee to the face for another near fall. The shooting star is loaded up but Adonis offers a distraction, setting up a belt shot to the head. Drake adds the Gravy Train to retain the title at 19:28.

**Rating:** C-. The ending was better but it wasn't the most thrilling match in the world. Drake getting a title defense under his belt

helps though and this felt like a big enough deal. Adonis is fine in his role too and works as some extra muscle. Also, it's nice to have the main event finish without the MMA guys coming in to take all the attention.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show was rolling along until it hit the wall that was the TripleMania stuff. That was literally over twenty minutes of just talking about a show where the GFW talents were supporting players, save for Impact. If you cut that WAY down and focus on other stuff that actually deserves some attention (assuming the promotion actually has that), this is a much better show. The fast paced first forty five minutes are good but outside of that, the show fell apart.

### Results

Sonjay Dutt/Petey Williams b. Caleb Konley/Trevor Lee – Top rope splash to Konley

LAX b. John Bolin/Zachary Wentz – Street Sweeper to Wentz

Sienna/Taryn Terrell b. Allie/Gail Kim – Reversed crossbody with a handful of tights

Eli Drake b. Matt Sydal – Gravy Train

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# Impact Wrestling – March 30, 2017: That's...Not Bad

## Impact Wrestling

Date: March 30, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

So we're still in Orlando...with a regular episode of Impact. One might think they might try to do something special with the wrestling world's eyes on their hometown but last week's show ended with Karen Jarrett returning, seemingly to start a feud with heel commentator Josh Matthews. That's special, right? Let's get to it.

We open with a board meeting where Dutch Mantel is handing out ideas while Matthews wants to be in on everything. Karen comes in and says she needs one of the bosses to send Sienna to the ring. So wait: does Karen have authority or not? Dutch flat out said he's not an authority figure yet he seems to be running things, so I guess Bruce Prichard is in charge? Can I get a flow chart? Anyway, Bruce and Dutch call the meeting because Josh and JB keep arguing.

The opening recap looks at the end of last week's show with Matthews getting in Karen's face and getting slapped down.

Opening sequence.

Here's Karen to open things up as the announcers are already bickering. She's here to talk about Maria Kanellis leaving, especially how Sienna has used the departure to become a huge bully. Cue Sienna (Why did Karen need Dutch/Bruce to get her to the ring if she can just call Sienna out?), who asks if there's a problem.

Karen has been here a short amount of time and hasn't heard one nice thing about Sienna. She's not going to tolerate any bullying from anyone but Sienna wants to know where Karen heard this. Sienna thinks it was Allie and doesn't think much of Karen because she didn't marry her way into the show.

Cue a big man who Pope knows but the fans greet with a WHO ARE YOU chant. Karen looks terrified as the guy introduces himself as KM (Kevin Matthews, though not mentioned here) and says he's Sienna's cousin. KM shouts about demanding respect and tells Karen to shut up. Braxton Sutter and Allie come out for the save and now Karen has a backbone again. Sutter vs. KM is set for later. This was FAR longer than it needed to be, especially when most of it was just so Karen could do her best Stephanie McMahon impression.

The X-Division wants to make Impact Wrestling great.

#### DJZ vs. Andrew Everett

Everett kicks him to the floor to start but it's time for a flip off, allowing the announcers to talk about AJ Styles. An armdrag sends Everett to the floor for a big flip dive, followed by some kicks in the corner. Speaking of AJ, Everett gets in a quick Pele but his moonsault hits raised feet. The ZDT is loaded up but Everett small packages him for the pin at 4:26.

**Rating:** C-. Impact Wrestling could go through a million bosses and regime changes and the X-Division would still get about five minutes in a meaningless match with the announcers talking about the good old days and how important it is while ignoring most of what happens in the ring. Such is life in the X-Division of course and I don't see it ever changes. Either do something with it or scrap the thing already because this is just lip service at best.

Post match Gregory Shane Helms comes out to say that Everett has earned an opportunity of some sort for next week.

Fury will be unleashed on April 13.

We look back at the horrible Rebel vs. ODB match from last week with Earl Hebner kissing both of them for reasons of unfunny comedy. After a break, ODB and Hebner seemed to go on a date. There is no way this can possibly end well.

Here's Rosemary, who has somehow been Knockouts Champion for five months, is here for the Burial of the Knockouts Celebration. She talks about all the women's she's destroyed but ODB comes out to

interrupt. ODB calls herself a four time "Knocked Up Champion" and wants a shot at the title. Rosemary says the Hive disagrees and goes to leave but here are Brandi Rhodes and five other women to chase her back to the ring. A huge brawl breaks out and that's enough to take us to a break.

Ethan Carter III wants to make Impact great again.

Announcers, bickering, nothing of note.

Here's Carter for a chat. He wants to apologize to Karen for what happened last week but he wasn't happy with the man he was becoming. This place is changing and he needs to change with it. Carter was the man who beat everyone around here and it's time for him to get back to that point. He needs to be the real EC3 and become an EC3 time World Champion.

Cue James Storm in regular clothes (and with no music for some reason). He didn't hear his name mentioned in Carter's list of former World Champions (maybe because he was listing multiple time World Champions). Storm wants to know where Carter was when Storm was on the first pay per view. Carter: "At my buddy's house watching the pay per view." We hear about AMW and Beer Money so Storm wants to know where Carter was back then. Carter: "I was probably drinking a lot of beer and making a lot of money." Storm: "Ok that's a really good answer!"

Both of them want to be the World Champion again and, since they're allowed to do this, they decide that the fans will get to pick which of them will be the new #1 contender. I like the idea of these two wanting to be World Champion and I especially like the idea of Storm being out of the DCC even more. This sounds like a way to turn Carter heel again, which would probably be best all around.

Garza Jr. and Laredo Kid want to win the Tag Team Titles tonight.

Reno Scum want to show everyone that they're the best.

We recap Cody vs. Moose for the Grand Championship. Cody wants the title but Moose was in Japan so tonight they can finally have the title match.

## Grand Championship: Moose vs. Cody

Moose is defending but Cody comes out with his Nex-Gen Title again. Cody gets shouldered into the corner to start but a quick DDT drops Moose. That just earns Cody a powerbomb and a middle rope moonsault for two. A big chop hits the post though and Cody superkicks one of the judges by mistake, because this match didn't have enough rules already and needed an angle. Cody can't quite get a cover as the first round ends. Bruce Prichard comes out to replace the injured judge and it's Moose winning round one.

Round two starts with Cody kicking the knee but missing a big kick to the head. Moose apron bombs him and grabs a chair, only to have Brandi get in his way. The distraction lets another leg shot set up the Figure Four but Moose hangs on to end the round. Cody wins the round to tie it up and round three starts with Brandi yelling at her husband and walking out.

They slug it out with Cody getting the better of it and the announcers bickering over Josh's wife being a fair judge. I mean, she's not a judge but she would be a fair one if she was. Moose peppers him with left hands but eats the Disaster Kick for no cover. They slug it out again and the round ends at 9:00 with neither having an advantage. Moose wins via split decision and Josh loses it.

**Rating:** C. This match showed my major problem with the entire concept: they had a nine minute match with a commercial and another break between the second and third rounds, yet at eight minutes in neither can stand up? You would think they should have a deeper gas tank than that. Nine minutes is a rather odd time limit, but then again so is a round system in general. Also, what was the point in the judge going down? I'm assuming Cody will claim conspiracy, because that's the kind of original thinking that's going to get this company to the top.

Video on Davey Richards vs. Eddie Edwards. Next week it's a last man standing match.

Eli Drake wants to make Impact Wrestling great.

We look at Moose vs. Cody again.

Karen brings JB a message about a Knockouts gauntlet battle royal to crown a new #1 contender. I see absolutely no reason for Karen to have been out here for this scene.

### KM vs. Braxton Sutter

The much bigger KM (billed at 6'8) drives Braxton into the corner to start but gets kicked in the face. KM dropkicks him down and we're off to a quickly broken chinlock. Instead it's a double clothesline to put both of them down, leaving the women to get into a chase on the floor. Sienna grabs Allie though and the distraction lets KM grab a powerbomb into a Backstabber for the pin at 3:37.

**Rating:** D+. The time hurt this and I'm glad it wasn't a clean pin. Sutter hasn't won a big match in months and I don't know how much longer the strength of the wedding angle and his relationship with Allie can carry him. Giving KM a victory is a good idea and there's nothing wrong with establishing new talent, but it might help to further establish your older talent first.

Post match the four of them get in a fight with the forces of good clearing the ring. Laurel Van Ness stumbles out, somehow looking creepier every single week. Sutter and Allie look terrified.

We go to the LAX clubhouse where Konnan talks to the team before the Tag Team Title match. Has anyone brought up that Konnan has brought in a team to fight against the team that works for his own company? Like, wouldn't it mean more money if Garza and Laredo won? I guess loyalty goes before money? It would be nice to have it brought up at least.

Davey Richards wants to make Impact Wrestling better.

Fury is still coming.

### Tag Team Titles: Garza Jr./Laredo Kid vs. LAX vs. Decay vs. Reno Scum

The titles are vacant coming in and this is one fall to a finish. Thornstone and Kid start things off with Scum taking over in a hurry. Ortiz tags himself in for some lucha, capped off with a

backbreaker to drop the Kid. Everything breaks down in a hurry and Kid dives onto a huge pile of people, followed by Garza doing the same as we take a break.

Back with Garza getting two off a Lionsault but LAX makes the save. Abyss comes in and clotheslines Kid against the ropes but Scum tags themselves in for some corner clotheslines. Kid scores with a DDT so both members of LAX come in to clean house, including a top rope double stomp onto a hanging cutter to Steve. It means posing instead of covering though, leaving Rosemary and Diamante to get into a catfight. Ortiz loads Laredo up for a powerbomb with Santana coming off the top with a Blockbuster for the pin and the titles at 12:13.

**Rating:** B. I had more fun with this than I was expecting and LAX wining is the right call. We've had Decay as champions, Scum really isn't interesting and the Crash guys are fine but nothing all that memorable. LAX is over and arguably better than any other team here so making them the new champions makes the most sense. Good action here too with a bunch of chaos, which is the best option given how little we know about the teams. Keep things moving and let the action be the draw.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This show accomplished one major thing above all others: it helped bolster almost everything on the show. We have people fighting to be #1 contender for the World and Knockouts Titles, the X-Division Title got a mention, the Grand Championship was defended and we have new Tag Team Champions. That's quite the usage of two hours and it's very nice to see them actually doing something with a lot of the roster instead of just doing the same stuff over and over.

Unfortunately, there's a lot of bad stuff here to go right along with it. I know I asked this earlier, but who in the world is running this show? I know there are multiple names but various people seem to have authority at some point or another. The worst part is the show doesn't even need an authority figure (just say the Impact Wrestling bosses have made a decision) but with three being introduced, you're going to wonder who is running things.

One of the names who might have authority is Karen Jarrett and we saw WAY too much of her tonight. The far too long opening segment really didn't need Karen as Sienna could have called out Allie to the same result. It really does come off like a Stephanie impression and that's not a good idea, especially when Karen is supposed to be a face yet she was ready to fight Sienna, who should be able to kill her. So I guess she's a hybrid between Stephanie and Shane?

On top of that, a lot of the wrestling really wasn't that great. It was completely watchable but that's not quite enough. When everyone is putting their best effort out for the biggest weekend of the wrestling year, you need to do something a little better than just a somewhat above average show. The main event is definitely the best thing about the show and it helped things quite a bit.

Overall the show had more good than bad but it needs a lot of work. Getting rid of multiple authority figures (and probably a title or two) would do some good and dropping the MAKE IMPACT GREAT vignettes would give them some more time for the matches. This was a good step in the right direction but since it's Impact, I have no reason to believe it's going to last.

### Results

Andrew Everett b. DJZ – Small package

Moose b. Cody via split decision

KM b. Braxton Sutter – Powerbomb into a Backstabber

LAX b. Reno Scum, Laredo Kid/Garza Jr. and Decay – Sitout powerbomb/Blockbuster combo to Kid

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# Impact Wrestling – February 23, 2017: They Got One Thing Right

## Impact Wrestling

Date: February 23, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

Time for a wedding! It's one of the last nights of the TNA tapings and we're getting a major angle in the form of Braxton Sutter being forced to marry Laurel Van Ness for reasons that still aren't clear. Other than that we have Bobby Lashley defending the TNA World Title against newcomer Josh Barnett at some point in the near future. Let's get to it.

In memory of George Steele, Ivan Koloff Nicole Bass and Chavo Guerrero Sr.

Matt Hardy is at House Hardy where he talks to George Washington (the giraffe), who is worried about Vanguard I's drinking issues. The Seven Deities are going to teleport Matt somewhere for his transformation into the King of Gold. However, he might lose some of his abilities so therefore he has to transfer them into Jeff's body. Jeff has a pre-mo-nition which tells him that Matt is going to Egypt. Vanguard I takes Matt away.

Wedding video.

Here are Cody and Brandi Rhodes for a chat. Cody doesn't like the idea that his wife was dubbed Mini Moose (still a dumb name) last week so he'd like Moose out here right now. This brings out Moose

and Cody gets straight to the point by asking if they're going to sleep together soon. Brandi isn't cool with that and asks if Cody is telling the truth. Cody says he was kidding but lays Moose out while shouting to Brandi that it's a joke. Cross Rhodes leaves Moose laying.

Post break, Cody has no comment.

Eli Drake thinks Tyrus stepped way over the line and tonight he has to take a beating.

Tyrus never liked Drake.

### Eli Drake vs. Tyrus

Before he gets in the ring, we get a little more Drake trash talk which is basically a way to plug the fact that Tyrus is a Fox News contributor. A single shoulder puts Drake on the floor so he offers Tyrus more money. Tyrus growls at him so Drake lays out the referee for the DQ at 2:35.

Post match Drake offers Tyrus a raise and they hug. In other words: "I hate you!" "I hate you too!" "Want more money?" "Yeah we're cool." Pope says this won't happen when the new management takes over. The Anthem Owl told him so.

Maria and company are getting ready for the wedding but can't find Allie.

Matt comes back from his quest and now has a regal robe. He's learned what it's going to take to make the Expedition of Gold a success. That means Skarrsgard is no longer a dilapidated boat but rather the Ark of Gold, where all the title belts will be stored.

Here's Jade to say her rivalry with Rosemary ("Red vs. Blue") is far from over. Jade wants to take the division back from the sick freak (Why does it feel like 80% of TNA storylines are about getting us back to what something is supposed to be? Sting had that feud roughly 485 times.) so here's Rosemary, who I barely remember being champion.

Josh and Pope get in an argument during the entrance and Pope hints that changes are coming to the booth. Rosemary wants the Knockouts to decay so Jade talks about going through Monster's Ball and coming out standing. We get a challenge for a Last Knockouts Standing match with Rosemary accepting. This felt really forced and Jade is far from a smooth talker.

Mike Bennett tries to give an annoyed Braxton Sutter a pep talk. Champagne is consumed and Bennett doesn't seem thrilled with his own marriage. Sutter brings up Allie but Maria has that covered.

### Bram vs. Jesse Godderz

They slug it out to start as Pope keeps hinting that Josh is going to be gone soon. Godderz plants him with a belly to back suplex and a Blockbuster to set up the Adonis Lock. Kingston gets on the apron for a distraction so Jesse catapults Bram into him, setting up the rollup for the pin on Bram at 3:57.

**Rating:** D. Good grief TNA. If you were just going to treat the DCC like a bunch of goofs, why did you bother putting them together in the first place? At this point the guys are the Job Squad as they can never win a match and there's still not exactly a clear point to why they're together in the first place. Nothing to see here.

Godderz cleans house and bails before he gets beaten down.

The Hardys teleport to the Mid-Atlantic territory where they say they want the Tag Team Titles. A team called the Mid-Atlantic Outlaws say they're the #1 contenders so a challenge is issued but another guy says this is their way to get out of this territory and on to a better life. Apparently this means anyone winning the Tag Team Titles so they're all off to find the champions.

The Lady Squad is getting ready for the wedding when Allie finally shows up. They yell at her a bit and tell her to make sure the hotel room is ready. Allie leaves and runs into Braxton, who can't explain why he's doing this. If that's not what he wants to do, then don't do it.

Back to Mid-Atlantic where a locker room brawl breaks out and the Hardys get a title shot. Just like last week, it's a clipped up match with the Hardys beating Mathis and Rage to become champions.

Josh Barnett hasn't been impressed by Lashley and thinks he needs to show Lashley how to be a champion. I still have no idea why I'm supposed to be impressed by/care about Barnett but that's never stopped TNA before.

### Bad Bones vs. Josh Barnett

Bad Bones is a tough looking guy from Germany and Lashley is on commentary. Barnett takes him to the mat and tries a chinlock but let's look at Lashley talking instead of the debuting #1 contender.

A bunch of strikes have Bones in trouble but he gets in a spear through the ropes. Barnett suplexes him and gets in a nasty Jackknife followed by a keylock for the submission at 2:43. Lashley is impressed.

#### X-Division Title: DJZ vs. Trevor Lee

DJZ is getting his remach and has a bad ankle coming in. That doesn't stop him from diving over the top onto the champion to start. A hurricanrana off the apron bangs up the ankle again so Lee goes after it in a smart move. The slow beating continues until an enziguri staggers Lee again. That means a Schitt's Creek plug as DJZ grabs a reverse hurricanrana. DJZ loads up the ZDT but Helms grabs the leg, allowing Lee to get in a rollup with a handful of tights to retain at 4:31.

**Rating:** D+. Standard X-Division match here, meaning no chance to go anywhere, high spots that were more interesting the first thousand or so times we've seen them and little surprise to the ending because you only get one change of this title every five months or so. Nothing to see here, as expected.

Post match Lee loads up the Pillmanizing but Andrew Everett comes in for the save.

Maria comes up to see Sutter and offers to remind him why this is happening. Sutter says he knows and Maria threatens him with consequences if there's no wedding. We still don't know what those consequences are.

It's time for the wedding with an already drunk Bennett as the best man. Spud is flower man and Aron Rex comes out in his gear. Maria and Sienna are the bridal party and after a break, here's Laurel as the fans chant for ODB. Maria does her signature stuff and brings out Allie, who looks stunning in her bridesmaid's dress and causes Braxton's jaw to drop.

Laurel reads her own vows, talking about how your bank account is what matters and promising to buy Braxton a new wardrobe. The fans drown this out with DELETE chants and Sutter says he forgot to bring his vows. We get to the "any objections" part and Maria shouts the fans down before Allie can say anything. Maria trips her and yells when the rings fall because that's what Maria and Allie do.

Laurel says I Do but Braxton can't get the second word out. Fans:

“JUST SAY NO!” Braxton says no because he can’t stand being around Laurel. There’s a guy out there for Laurel to make completely miserable but it’s just not him. Braxton says he loves Allie and for once the fans seem to genuinely freak out over this (It couldn’t be because these are characters the fans can relate to and get behind because they can’t stand the villain could it?).

He knows Maria is going to fire Allie for this and he’ll never see her again but he loves her and that’s all that matters. Maria fires Allie but she quits instead. This might have been more effective if they hadn’t had the big split moment two or three times already. Sutter punches Bennett down and Brooke comes out to help Allie. Robbie E. goes after Aron and the big kiss ends the show as Pope teases the changes AGAIN.

The big angle was good because I have a reason to care about the characters but as usual, TNA screwed themselves over by hyping this as the “most controversial wedding in wrestling history”. Not only does that basically say they know what’s coming but also....this was exactly what people were expecting. It’s not like this was anything that we haven’t seen a half dozen times before. The Brooke wedding a few years back where Tazz joined Aces and 8’s was a bigger surprise than this one. Again though, that’s TNA in a nutshell: make something bigger than it is and be disappointing because Josh can’t shut up about it.

**Overall Rating:** D. Assuming you even count the first “match” as wrestling, this show didn’t even have fourteen minutes of actual bell time (not counting the Hardys which was a bunch of clips instead of a match). The Hardys are still running around doing whatever they want, despite it not seeming to lead to anything (other than Ring of Honor) at the moment. Everything else is just there with no particular rhyme or reason, which doesn’t make for a good show. The wedding was entertaining for what it was but that’s not enough to carry a show.

I know none of this really matters as they’re resetting everything (AGAIN) in two weeks but they better knock it out of the park with the new stuff because this has been really dull lately. They’re certainly teasing some new stuff and that’s a good thing, though if there’s one thing TNA knows how to do, it’s underwhelm on their bragging.

## Results

Tyrus b. Eli Drake via DQ when Tyrus hit the referee

Jesse Godderz b. Bram – Rollup

Josh Barnett b. Bad Bones – Keylock

Trevor Lee b. DJZ – Rollup with a handful of tights

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# **Impact Wrestling – January 12, 2017: The New Beginning of More of the Same**

## **Impact Wrestling**

Date: January 12, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

It's the second show of the Anthem Era and that means more talking about how Anthem is helping keep the show going. Eddie Edwards is still the World Champion after Davey Richards returned last week to help him retain the title in a triple threat match over Lashley and

Ethan Carter III. Let's get to it.

Josh and Pope welcome us to the show and run down tonight's card.

The Hardys are ready for the Wolves tonight as the Tag Team Titles will be on the line. With less than one week's build too.

Here's Ethan Carter III to talk about Davey Richards costing him his World Title match at last week's One Night Only Live pay per view. All he wanted was one clean title shot but Richards and a chair kept that from happening. Now he wants to invade Wolves Nation like Liam Neeson in the Gray.

Cue Lashley instead and he's not pleased with Carter. If it were him last week, he would have caved in Eddie Edwards' head with a chair and be out here with the title right now. Lashley suggests a last man standing match for the title tonight (assuming he means for the #1 contendership) so Carter asks the Anthem Owl on the turnbuckle. Carter wants the match right now and the fight is on in the aisle but it's quickly broken up.

#### Lashley vs. Ethan Carter III

Last man standing with the winner getting the shot at Edwards at some point in the future. They brawl on the floor to start with Lashley hitting a powerslam on the concrete for seven, only to get slammed off the top, followed by a cutter. A suplex on the floor keeps Lashley down long enough for Ethan to set up two tables as we take a break.

Back with Lashley being sent into the corner and getting German suplexed out of it for four. A superplex doesn't keep Lashley down either so he superplexes Carter for a long count. The spear gets seven on Carter so Lashley spears him again. The count last long enough that Lashley can set up a table in the corner.

Carter avoids a third spear and hits one of his own to put Lashley through the table but both are up at nine. Ethan just unloads on him with a chair but that's still not enough. With nothing else working, Ethan grabs his rear naked choke but gets dropped off the apron through both tables. Both guys are down and only Lashley can beat

the count for the win at 17:15.

**Rating:** B-. Good brawl but my goodness I'm bored seeing these two and Eddie fighting over the title. Lashley has been in the same spot for well over a year now and that's not something I want to keep watching over and over again. It's nice to have a good brawl like this instead of the same match but can we PLEASE get some fresh blood in the title picture?

Next week it's Race for the Case (Feast or Fired) with the winners getting four matches the following week at Open Fight Night. So they're having a gimmick match to set up a gimmick show in the span of two weeks.

Eli Drake has Tyrus grab a backstage worker and force him to read a prepared statement since the fans were glad that Eli wasn't allowed to speak. Drake is going to get his revenge, starting by winning Race for the Case next week. He beats the guy up for not having enough emotion and Tyrus gets rid of the cameras.

Here's Rockstar Spud in powder blue to introduce Aron Rex, who is now in a white fur coat in something like a Liberace gimmick (which Rex pitched to WWE for years but was never allowed to go through with it). Spud introduces him again once he's in the ring so Rex can say everyone has paid to see him for years but they should never pay for him to do something as barbaric as fighting. The coat comes off and Rex now has flesh colored trunks so here's Robbie E. to interrupt. The fight is quickly on and Rex uses the big rings to knock Robbie down. Rex puts the coat back on and says violence is never the answer.

The DCC is ready to take out Decay tonight. Kingston has fifteen years of memories of being told he's too violent for this business but he knew his time had come when James Storm called him. Storm says DCC is for Death Crew Council.

Allie is in the back when Maria comes up to yell at her. Maria isn't happy that Allie is still talking to Braxton Sutter but Allie says she's done everything Maria has told her to do. Haven't these two broken up like a million times now?

## Decay vs. DCC

Storm is the odd man out here. It's a big brawl to start (as it should be) with the DCC taking over off an Alabama Slam to Steve. Bram comes in for a clothesline as Josh runs through all the advertisements he can squeeze into a single match. The hot tag brings in Abyss and everything breaks down again with Steve diving onto Bram and Kingston. The match is thrown out for a double DQ at 5:11.

**Rating:** D+. That's the right call as there's only so much you can have these teams do before it gets out of hand. I'm glad the DCC didn't lose here as they have potential, even though they've already lost a lot of their steam. But hey, at least they could be in Tag Team Apocalypto for a joke appearance, which is exactly the point of a team like them.

They keep brawling out of the arena.

The Wolves say tonight is special because they can get their titles back.

Brooke is back and thrilled to get back in the ring.

## Mike Bennett vs. Braxton Sutter

Mike kicks him in the face to start and a Maria distraction keeps Bennett in control. Sutter makes an early comeback as we get a weak "we want Allie" chant. Maria grabs Sutter's leg though and the Miracle in Progress connects. Before the cover though, Maria wants a kiss so here's Allie to cut her off, allowing Sutter to grab a rollup for the pin at 5:04.

**Rating:** D. This was all about the storyline and there's nothing wrong with that, save for the fact that Maria vs. Allie should have ended a long time ago but it's still going. Sutter could be something interesting but I'm not sure if this is going to mean anything going forward, which is one of TNA's biggest issues.

Post break, Maria yells about Allie screwing things up. Mike says Allie works for Maria so Maria can destroy her.

Rosemary comes out and says the Knockouts will all become part of

the darkness but here's Jade, now with short hair, to say they're just getting started. She wants her rematch and Rosemary is very pleased. The match is accepted, as long as it can be Monster's Ball. Jade agrees and stops an attack from behind. I'll take Jade as a challenger, but I don't believe for a second that it's not just filler until Gail Kim comes back for another title run.

#### Tag Team Titles: Wolves vs. Hardys

The Hardys are defending. Matt and Davey get things going before it's quickly off to Jeff for a dropkick. That goes nowhere so the World Champ comes in and gets double teamed to the mat as we take an early break. Back with Eddie getting in a neckbreaker but not being able to make the hot tag.

Instead it's back to Matt who gives up the hot tag and gets caught in a Richards Figure Four. Jeff's save is countered into an ankle lock at the same time before Davey cranks on Matt's knee even more. The Wolves take over on Matt for a bit with some alternating stomps, only to have Jeff come in for another reset (Josh's words).

A double Whisper in the Wind puts the Wolves down but Jeff gets caught in Chasing the Dragon for two. Davey misses the top rope double stomp and it's the Twist into the Swanton for two with Richards making a save. Eddie dives onto Matt so there's no one for whatever Davey wanted to set up, allowing Jeff to roll Richards up for the pin at 16:33.

**Rating:** B-. The match was fine but it's the same problem TNA has been having with its booking for so long now: there's no reason for this match to be happening other than they're both great teams. There's no animosity, no major story and nothing more than the Hardys saying DELETE DELETE DELETE over and over again to set it up. I'm sure if you look back to when the Wolves were around full time there might be a story but that has nothing to do with whatever else you can watch on Pop TV so Josh isn't going to tell us about it. I've never been a fan of this booking style and it's one of TNA's favorites.

The Wolves argue to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show was all over the place and that's not really a good thing. So many of these stories feel like they've been going on for months now (because they've been going on for months now) and that makes for some very tedious shows as the angles rarely advance. So now we're getting Lashley vs. Edwards again because that's something fresh and new. When you keep hyping up Anthem as the new owners and partners or whatever they're billed as, it might be a nice idea to actually present something fresh instead of the Wolves reunion and Aron Rex as Liberace.

### Results

Lashley b. Ethan Carter III – Carter was driven through two tables  
DCC vs. Decay went to a Double DQ when all four brawled on the floor  
Braxton Sutter b. Mike Bennett – Rollup  
Hardys b. Wolves – Rollup to Richards

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# **Impact Wrestling – January 5, 2017: No More Happy New**

# Year

## Impact Wrestling

Date: January 5, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

This might actually be an interesting show as TNA is under new ownership with Dixie Carter all but completely out of power. It's been a few weeks since we've had a full show of new content actually in the Impact Zone as we saw two weeks of Hardy related material plus a very rushed Best of 2016 show. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the World Title situation with Ethan Carter III and Eddie Edwards going to a double pin and Edwards vs. Lashley going into the North Carolina woods at Total Nonstop Deletion.

Here's Eddie to wish us a happy new year and to say he'll fight anyone anytime. This brings out Lashley to say he'll be giving out beatings this year, starting with Eddie. Lashley wants a title shot tonight but here's Ethan Carter III, who makes sure to point out the Anthem logo. Carter was watching these two fight in Matt Hardy's backyard and thinking about getting his title back. Lashley calls them both cheerleaders and isn't cool with Carter wanting a rematch tonight too. The champ suggests a triple threat match and promises a special surprise for later. As long as it's not the Wolves reuniting, I'm good.

### Grand Championship: Moose vs. Mike Bennett

Moose is defending. The announcers try to act like this was a great friendship before just giving up on the idea. Bennett kicks him down and grabs a chinlock before hammering away to gain favor with the judges. That sounds like it belongs in some lame adventure game. Another hard chinlock ends the first round, which Bennett easily wins. Moose fights back to start the second round and hits a middle rope moonsault for an early two.

Back up and Moose dives into a cutter for two. We hit another chinlock until Moose takes his head off with the Game Changer as the round ends. After a break, Moose wins round two and grabs the chokebomb for two. He misses a top rope moonsault though and Bennett grabs a piledriver for two. They very slowly slug it out with Moose

hitting him in the face but getting kicked in the chest. Another slugout is enough for them to take it to the bell at 16:49 (counting breaks). Moose wins via split decision.

**Rating:** C+. This was one of the best Grand Championship style matches I've seen so far but again, this could have been the exact same thing if they just had a regular time limit without the whole rounds system. It feels like an unnecessary detail and that's not a good thing. At least the match was good and Mike and Maria seem to be around for now.

Swoggle is in the back when he runs into the Hardys. Matt asks if he was sent here by Mc-Mehon to infiltrate the event. Apparently he was and Matt laughs.

### Rockstar Spud vs. Swoggle

Spud wants to start this year with a win because the winning streak starts now. Swoggle starts fast with a spear, a German suplex and the Celtic Cross for a completely clean pin at 1:09.

Post match Spud quits.

Bennett goes up to Moose again and demands a rematch on the pay per view in a match where anything goes. Moose agrees.

Eli Drake holds up signs that say he gets to talk next.

It's time for Fact of Life with the once again verbal Eli Drake. He'll never be done with Ethan Carter III but tonight his guests are the Broken Hardys. Reby plays them to the ring on the piano and Eli says get the camera back on him. He wants to know where his invite was to Tag Team Apocalypto but Matt says maybe Eli was scared like the Day of New or the Bucks of Youth. Drake: "I don't know what you just said."

I think they start quoting song lyrics to each other until Eli hits the button over and over. Matt says something about magic and blasphemy so Eli throws out a challenge for tomorrow's pay per view. We get the dueling DELETE/YEAH chants until Jeff calls it very confusing and hits Drake in the head.

Eddie is about to talk about his surprise when Lashley comes up with a threat.

Video on Total Nonstop Deletion.

### Helms Dynasty vs. Decay

Gregory Shane Helms is no longer the Hurricane for no apparent reason. In a quick pre-match interview, Shane says he doesn't remember being the Hurricane but he's back now. Sure why not. Decay takes over to start but the Dynasty realizes they can have some more luck against Steve, who is beaten down in the corner. Lee cleans some house but a tag brings in Abyss to wreck the smaller guys. Helms tries to chokeslam Abyss and gets mist from Rosemary for his efforts. A chokeslam off the top ends Everett at 3:23.

**Rating:** D+. Another nothing match because there's no reason to think either of these teams can beat the Hardys. That's what happens when you put everyone together in one match and have the Hardys go over. But then again I shouldn't be complaining because we got that WICKED BURNING HHH JAB and that's what matters.

Post match the DCC jumps Decay from behind.

Maria has something special planned for Allie.

Here are Maria, Sienna and Laurel Van Ness with something to say. Maria talks about being here a year ago and looking forward to another year. First things first though: Allie needs to get down here. Allie comes out and Maria screeches a lot, saying Allie's plan has two problems. There's going to be a match right now so Allie gets in her face and says bring it on.

#### Allie vs. Sienna

Madison Rayne is on commentary. Allie goes right after her but gets taken down by Sienna instead. A one foot cover gets two and a sideslam gives Sienna the same. Sienna keeps getting distracted by Braxton Sutter on the floor but is still able to spit at Allie. That fires Allie up even more and she slams Sienna, only to have Laurel hug Braxton for a distraction. Allie is upset and the Silencer puts her away at 5:05.

**Rating:** D. Aside from this story going and going, Madison is really getting on my nerves. She adds nothing, she isn't interesting, she isn't funny and she's just there, talking about things that anyone could figure out by watching the match. I'm really not a fan of adding things in for the sake of adding things in and that's what Madison is right now.

We hear about tomorrow's pay per view. No I won't be watching it.

TNA World Title: Ethan Carter III vs. Lashley vs. Eddie Edwards

Eddie is defending and helps Carter beat on Lashley, who suplexes both of them down without much effort. A trip to the floor doesn't do much and it's a double clothesline to put Lashley on the floor again as we take a break. Back with Lashley on the floor as the other two fight over a standing switch. Lashley comes back in and German suplexes both of them at the same time before exposing a turnbuckle.

That goes nowhere (yet) and it's a double suplex to Lashley instead. Eddie takes over with chops all around and a Blue Thunder Bomb gets two on Carter. Something like a Tower of Doom puts all three down and it's Carter up first with a clothesline to Lashley. The TK3 gets two on Lashley but he throws Carter to the floor. It's time to grab the title but here's the returning Davey Richards to take it away. The Boston Knee Party retains Eddie's title at 19:52.

**Rating:** B. Another year, another long TNA Title match that was only long for the sake of being long. I still have no reason to care about any of these people and it feels like almost nothing is going to change if any of them becomes champion. It also feels like these same three have been around the title FOREVER and I'm not sure if it would be worse to have Richards vs. Edwards or more of these three.

**Overall Rating:** C-. The main event helped this one but it's still the exact same TNA that it's been for a long time: too much filler (this show was an extra ten minutes long for the sole purpose of being an extra ten minutes long), not enough interesting wrestling, almost no interesting characters and more of the same stuff over and over again. I didn't see anything that would make me think this is a fresh start other than ANTHEM being mentioned all the time. It's not a horrible show but it's really uninteresting, which isn't a good sign after all the hype of the ownership issues.

### Results

Moose b. Mike Bennett via split decision

Swoggle b. Rockstar Spud – Celtic Cross

Decay b. Helms Dynasty – Chokeslam to Everett

Sienna b. Allie – Silencer

Eddie Edwards b. Lashley and Ethan Carter III – Boston Knee Party to Lashley

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new book, KB's Complete Monday Nitro and Thunder Reviews Volume V at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

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# Impact Wrestling – December 8, 2016: The Last Normal One

## Impact Wrestling

Date: December 8, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

It's the last regular show of the year as next week will be Total Nonstop Deletion because it's a good idea to give the Hardys their own show. The big story this week is the World Title on the line as Eddie Edwards defends against Ethan Carter III. You can almost guarantee a screwy finish of some kind as TNA loves leaving us hanging. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the World Title match with both guys seeming to have a lot of respect for each other.

Here's new Grand Champion Moose for an opening chat. We get the YOU DESERVE IT chant, which is really starting to lose meaning. The guy has been around less than six months and has only been wrestling on the big stage for less than two years. Anyway, Moose promises to be

a fighting champion but here's Drew Galloway to interrupt.

Drew says the title was built for him and now he could have a match of the year against someone like Moose. The fight is about to begin but here's Aron Rex (now clean shaven) to interrupt. Rex says three seconds isn't enough time for a match and threatens to sue the fans for, and I feel stupid for saying this, Rexual Harassment. He'll have his rematch right now.

#### Grand Championship: Moose vs. Aron Rex

Rex is challenging and wastes no time with the loaded up punch, which knocks Moose out on the floor. Back in and Rex can only get two so we hit the chinlock. Moose makes a quick comeback to end the round but Rex still takes the first. Rex uses his evil towel to blind Moose to start the second and it's ANOTHER chinlock. The Wind-Up Elbow gets two on the champ and more elbows give Rex the second round. Round three begins with Rex hammering away again, only to get dropkicked off the top. The Game Changer retains the title at 7:36 total.

**Rating:** D+. I really cannot stand this gimmick. It's TNA trying to be creative and while it's something new, that doesn't mean it's interesting. The problem here is you could take away the rounds and the match would be exactly the same. Just have Rex cheat to win any regular title and it's the same thing. That's a major problem but TNA just keeps running with this thing.

Eddie says he's ready.

Galloway rants about TNA not holding the tournament for him.

#### Aiden O'Shea vs. Mandrews

O'Shea goes for a slam but the much smaller Mandrews falls on him to take over. Aiden's big forearm hits the apron by mistake and now he's ticked off. The shirt comes off and the slow beating begins, only to have Mandrews send him outside. That means a big flip dive as I'm wondering why I'm supposed to boo this guy. A springboard seated senton sets up a shooting star press to end O'Shea at 5:48.

**Rating:** C-. So.....he's one of the least interesting wrestlers in the

division, he's turned heel, and now he wins a match that by definition is about making someone look like a face? Normally I would attribute this to a weird taping situation where Mandrews' turn was taped after this but, since it's TNA, it's just weird booking as this took place after the turn.

#### Mahabali Shera/Al Snow vs. Tribunal

Indian strap match, meaning they're bound at the wrists by straps and you win by touching all six corners. They brawl on the floor to start until the wrists are strapped, meaning the Tribunal can start choking. Snow's comeback is cut off but it's too early to touch the buckles. Low blows and straps to the back have the Tribunal down and a double low bridging allows Snow and Shera to win at 5:19.

**Rating:** D-. Whatever man. I've been sick of this feud since the second it began and this isn't getting any better. Hopefully this blows it off and we can go on to anything else because I have no idea why it would keep going. No one involved is interesting and no one involved is being elevated but it keeps going anyway. Such is life in TNA.

We see Matt Hardy asleep with the Seven Deities telling him about something called Apocalypto.

Ethan is ready for the title match and makes fun of Eli Drake for not being able to talk.

Here are the Hardys to talk about Tag Team Apocalypto next week. Matt says the match will be so big that Mc-Mahon or Hayman couldn't promote it. There will be regular stars of the Impact Wrestling roster and even King Maxill will make his debut. The Tag Team Titles will be on the line in an open challenge to any tag team in the history of space and time.

Cue Shane Helms (He still works here?) to say he'll be there. Matt can't wait to see 3 Count or the superheroes back in action. Helms is actually bringing the Helms Dynasty and promises to be there. Cue Decay to say they'll top the Great War when they appear as well. Helms takes a Twist of Fate.

After a break, DCC says they'll be in North Carolina next week too.

### Laurel Van Ness vs. Allie

Madison Rayne is on commentary. Before the match, Maria laughs at Allie for pretending to be a wrestler. Allie says she's been training with Braxton Sutter, which freaks Laurel out. Sutter comes out to watch from ringside as Laurel starts beating Allie up. Allie gets in a suplex as Sutter and Mike Bennett fight to the back. With the men gone, Laurel misses a charge in the corner and a reverse DDT puts her away at 5:11.

**Rating:** D+. The match was nothing but the story was all it needed to be. Allie is one of the most over people on the roster and seeing her beat up Maria and company is the best idea possible. It's also very helpful that she's a trained wrestler so we don't have to sit through months of her learning how to do things. Sutter vs. Bennett could be good too.

Maria tries to get in and is shoved right back down.

Video on Carter vs. Edwards.

Allie is all happy and kisses Sutter in celebration.

Total Nonstop Deletion ad.

### TNA World Title: Ethan Carter III vs. Eddie Edwards

Eddie is defending and they trade armbars to start. A running knee lift cuts Eddie off and sends him to the floor as they're definitely taking their time here. Ethan gets two off a knee drop and we take a break. Back with Carter getting two off a suplex and we're off to a chinlock.

That goes nowhere so Eddie hits a top rope hurricanrana to very little reaction from the audience. They chop it out until Ethan is knocked outside for the suicide dive. Eddie's rollup is countered into a sitout powerbomb for two but the TK3 doesn't work. Back up and the champ gets crotched on the ropes for the superplex into a small package near fall.

Carter speeds things up until the Boston Knee Party sends him

outside. The TK3 connects on the floor but Carter still can't put him away. The Backpack Stunner is countered into Ethan's rear naked choke, only to have Eddie roll onto his back. It's a double finish as Eddie taps at the same time as the three count at 20:35.

**Rating:** B. The match was good but, as usual, it felt like they were just doing moves until we got to the ending. The near falls helped a lot and I buy them as equals but the ending felt a bit forced. It's a good main event but really not enough to save the show, which wasn't the best leading up to this.

The match is ruled a no contest so Eddie retains. Replays show that Carter's shoulder was up at two anyway but it's not acknowledged. I'm guessing Carter goes heel after this.

**Overall Rating:** C-. That main event helped a lot but there's almost no way to save this show. Maybe they were just spent at the end of the marathon tapings or maybe TNA just isn't capable of putting on quality TV (there's a shocker) but so much of this show feels like a waste of time.

I can't count how many things on here just exist with no emotional connection. When you have a gimmick match that doesn't work, a pretty worthless big vs. little match, that stupid, stupid Snow/Shera match and a mostly bad women's match, a good main event just isn't enough. The show isn't the worst in the world and is watchable at times but it's not interesting and that's a much bigger problem.

### Results

Moose b. Aron Rex – Game Changer

Mandrews b. Aiden O'Shea – Shooting star press

Al Snow/Mahabali Shera b. Tribunal – Snow and Shera touched all six buckles

Allie b. Laurel Van Ness – Reverse DDT

Eddie Edwards vs. Ethan Carter III went to a no contest with a double finish

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## **New Column: In Other News – BOO Edition**

<http://wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-in-other-news-boo-edition/>

It's another version looking at some smaller stories because I'd be wasting your time looking at Charlotte vs. Sasha again or complaining about Stephanie being annoying.

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## **Impact Wrestling – October 20, 2016: I Think We Have A Bad Connection**

**Impact Wrestling**

Date: October 20, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

The main event scene has picked up in the last week as we have what seems to be a four way feud between Lashley, Cody, Moose and World Champion Eddie Edwards. Other than that there's the start of the Hardys vs. the Tribunal and more of Maria Kanellis-Bennett and company vs. Gail Kim over the Knockouts Title. Let's get to it.

We look at the end of last week's show with Moose beating Carter to earn a shot against Lashley for a future title shot and Maria losing her rematch against Kim, meaning she's out of power in the Knockouts division. As for tonight, Cody is ready to take the World Title from Eddie Edwards.

Here's Cody to open things up. He's a fan of country music and a song has been making him think about why he left his former employer. It wasn't because of the money but because of the moments. Tonight he gets one of those moments when he has a chance to win the World Title. When he was fifteen he told his dad he wanted to be a wrestler. Dusty wasn't sure but he gave his blessing, but only if Cody was the best. That means becoming World Champion so here's Eddie to interrupt.

Eddie praises Cody for his career and says Cody has reinvented himself over and over. When Eddie is in the ring taking beating after beating, he knows who he is because of the Wolves Nation. The question is does Cody know who he is. Cody lists off parts of various characters he's had over the years before getting in Eddie's face. This brings out Lashley, who says the future is him hurting one of the two people in the ring. Cue Moose and our first match is after the break.

#### Moose vs. Lashley

The winner gets a title shot at some point in the future. They immediately start slugging away but Lashley's suplex is no sold. The Moose punches send Lashley outside, only to have him send Moose into the post. Back in and Moose gets thrown around again but he dropkicks Lashley off the top. A very big running dive is nearly

left short but is still good enough to take Lashley out.

They trade spinebusters for two each (Moose's looked way off) before Moose no sells a superplex (that's Lashley's third vertical suplex in about five minutes). A spear each gives both guys another near fall. Moose's discus lariat gets two more but the chokebomb is broken up, allowing Lashley to hit the middle rope spear for the pin at 7:35.

**Rating:** C+. I really wouldn't go out of my way to point out how similar Lashley and Moose's offenses are like they did here. On top of that, they're really going to have Moose lose clean this soon? I mean, it's fairly clear that he and Lashley have very similar styles (give the whole trading moves here) so they're going to stick with the same guy that has been in the main event for well over a year now and not exactly set the world on fire? Oh yeah: this is TNA.

The Tribunal talks about wanting respect but the feed cuts out to hear from the three masked men. Chaos arrives tonight.

Tyrus ad.

Here's Fact of Life with Eli Drake. Eli is Bound For Gold and rips on the crowd a bit, which responds with a laugh track. The guest this week is Aron Rex and the "audience" isn't thrilled. Rex loves the title and what it means so he calls it sweetheart. Drake talks his usual trash so Rex goes through various champions who don't talk trash.

Since Rex beat Edwards for the Grand Championship, that makes him the man around here. Rex says none of them have anything on the man who is Bound For Gold. This brings Rex around to Ethan Carter III, who Drake says is bound for the dumpster. Cue Carter but Drake sends it to a break, complete with a TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES DUMMIES graphic. This segment gets better and better every week.

Back with Carter in the ring and calling Eli out for a fight. He wants to destroy that set but wants Eli to press the button so he can punch Drake (YEAH!), kick Drake (YEAH!) or choke Drake (YEAH!). Eli pushes the button over and over so Carter dives on the security

and the fight is on. Rex tries to break it up but Jesse Godderz (who Rex insulted during his interview) comes out to go after Aron. Security breaks it up.

Here are the Hardys to do their catchphrases and accuse the Tribunal of trying to take food off King Maxel's plate. Thankfully the Tribunal cuts off the DELETE chants.

#### Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. Tribunal

Hardys are defending and it's another brawl to start with the champs taking over early on. The announcers talk about the Best of Sting DVD being back in stock, which is one of the first merchandise plugs I've heard in a LONG time. Dax gets in a few shots on Matt but it's quickly off to Jeff for some forearms to the head. Jeff is quickly taken down into the challengers' corner but WAIT! We have to pause the match because Josh has an update on a new Pop television event! I could live with those a lot better if Josh knew anything about making a transition.

A legsweep gets Jeff out of trouble and it's off to Matt for a bunch of biting. Did the Hardys ever have a face turn moment and I missed it? Or am I just supposed to cheer for them because the schmucks in the Impact Zone do? Not that it matters as we're getting the Hardys whether we like them or not because they're stars or something. Matt hits a quick Side Effect but gets caught in a double spinebuster for two. Back to back Twists of Fate end Baraka at 7:49.

**Rating:** B-. This was every bit of the tag team formula and it actually worked well. The Hardys can still do a basic match very well but that doesn't mean I want two Hardy themed specials airing at Christmastime. That's one of TNA's major issues: they have no idea when to slow down on something.

Post match the three masked men appear and lay out the Tribunal. So we have masked men who appear after a series of weird visuals and attack people. And the response from the TNA fans who got annoyed at Final Deletion being copied will be.....?

Allie is getting ready to stand up to Maria when Braxton Sutter

comes up. That goes nowhere as Laurel Van Ness comes in to say Maria has something to say to Allie. Laurel hits on Braxton a bit too.

The masked men say no one is safe because they're here to stay.

Lashley talks to Cody about destroying various saviors. Cody doesn't think the good luck wishes are genuine and says it's not bragging if you can back it up. Lashley says their paths will cross sooner or later.

We look back at the end of Gail vs. Maria from last week.

Here are Maria, Allie and Laurel with something to say but their entrance is drowned out by Josh going on and on about the reign of terror being over. Maria may not be in charge anymore but she's still the greatest Knockout of all time. Of all the people she can blame though, it's all Allie's fault. Maria demands an apology but Allie finally stands up to her and says Maria is the one to blame. The beatdown is on and Allie is left laying with Maria saying it's Allie vs. Laurel next week.

Lashley tries to play mind games with Eddie but the champ isn't buying it.

Tyrus tells Mahabali Shera to not dance because he's going to fight tonight.

Ethan Carter III and Jesse Godderz want to face Aron Rex and Eli Drake next week.

#### Mahabali Shera vs. Mike Bennett

Bennett's music is restored this week. Shera poses to start so Mike knocks him into the corner, only to have his chops no sold. Bennett sends him into the corner and beats on Shera for a bit, only to get caught with slams and a bearhug. Since this isn't 1984, none of that has any effect and Bennett rakes the eyes to set up the MIP for the pin at 2:57.

Video on Eddie vs. Cody.

DJZ says himself, Mandrews and Braxton Sutter are the beat Team X Gold team around. Cue Rockstar Spud (who gets a TATER TOT chant) to

ask why he hasn't been asked to participate. DJZ: "Nobody likes you." Spud says he has his own team who will be here next week and they're better than X, Y and Z. Do they really think they have room for Trios Titles around here? That's what they think is the best use of their time?

### TNA World Title: Eddie Edwards vs. Cody

Cody is challenging and has Brandi Rhodes in his corner. Feeling out process to start and a double dropkick gives us a standoff. Back from a break with Cody getting kicked down to the mat, only to have him chop Eddie into an armbar. Eddie fights up again but eats the Beautiful Disaster, followed by a springboard dive to the floor.

A slam on the ramp sets up a modified Muscle Buster on the champ for another near fall and Cody is getting frustrated. The champ is loaded up for a superplex but reverses into a small package (looked horrible as Cody was laying on the mat and then raised up to get to the pin) to retain at 13:05.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine but it's just another title match being handed to an ex-WWE guy who hasn't proven a thing in this company yet. At least Rex had to win a tournament to get his title. Cody on the other hand was literally handed a World Title match the day he arrived and that's not a good look for TNA.

They shake hands and Eddie lets Cody pose (Why? He hasn't actually done anything yet.), allowing Maria to come out and attack Brandi as the show ends.

**Overall Rating:** C. Horribly choreographed ending aside, this was a mostly watchable show. However, there's a big problem that TNA has had for a very long time now and this week showcased it more than they've done in a long time: there's no one to connect with for most fans. Here are some of the characters on this show:

A MMA/professional wrestler

A former NFL player

The freakshow with magical powers

A loudmouth with a model wife who was treated like a huge deal on

arrival

A guy who likes to dance and hired a fixer to do his fighting for him

The son of a legend who was literally given a World Title shot without winning a single match

There are a few relatable characters (Allie, maybe Eddie) but they're very few and far between. They might do cool stuff every now and then and the wrestling can be good but the characters aren't people I'm going to have a connection with. Look at Daniel Bryan: the everyman held down by the system who kept fighting until he won. It's something people can connect to, which isn't the case in TNA the majority of the time. Give us someone we care about instead of someone fun to watch. It can make a world of difference.

### Results

Lashley b. Moose – Middle rope spear

Hardys b. Tribunal – Twist of Fate to Baraka

Mike Bennett b. Mahabali Shera – MIP

Eddie Edwards b. Cody – Small package

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