

# Impact Wrestling – May 29, 2014: What Is It Good For? Absolutely Nothing.

## Impact Wrestling

Date: May 29, 2014

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

After last week, the only hope that I have is that the focus is spread out a little bit, rather than having almost everything being about the new trio. We're coming up on Slammiversary with Eric Young defending against MVP, but now we also have to deal with Dixie Carter not being ok with MVP's actions. Let's get to it.

We open with a video on the trio's dominance and desire for power with a lot of clips from last week.

Here's Bully Ray to say that he's obsessed with six people here in TNA. They all have bullseyes on their backs and he promises to put them all through tables. There are six tables standing up next to the ramp with names on them: Lashley, EC3, Kenny King, MVP, Spud and Dixie Carter. Ray heads to the ring and calls out anybody for a fight right now. He gets MVP in wrestling gear but the boss is walking slow. MVP says this isn't happening tonight and there's no fun in coming to the ring for a fight. Well, at least not on his own.

King and Lashley come out as well but EC3 and Spud slide into jump Ray. The trio gets in as well and Ray is in big trouble. EC3 and Spud bring the Spud table to the ring but Eric Young, Austin Aries and the Wolves come in for the save. The heels leave but Spud gets caught. Aries wants a six man tag and Ray wants it next. As a preview, Ray hits a middle rope powerbomb to drive Spud through the table.

## MVP/Bobby Lashley/Kenny King vs. Wolves/Austin Aries

This is joined in process in a big brawl on the floor as we come back. It's Lashley throwing Aries around to get us going legally before choking away. Aries comes back with some kicks to the leg as Edwards and King come inside for brawling as well. Aries escapes the powerslam and low bridges Lashley to the floor. King is sent outside the same way, followed by Richards (with his heavily taped ribs) sending MVP out to join them. The Wolves hit stereo dives and Aries comes off the top to take out Lashley as we take a break.

Back with King in trouble but MVP throws in a kick from the apron to put Edwards in trouble. Lashley comes in off the tag and throws Eddie around with ease. He drives shoulders in the corner before it's back to MVP for a hard lariat and two. King comes back in but Edwards flips out of a German suplex and makes the tag to Aries.

Austin fights hard but gets caught in a running powerslam from Lashley. Aries escapes the Royal Flush though and nails the brainbuster on King. Back to Richards who goes up and rips the tape off his ribs, only to have the double stomp hit King's shoulders. Lashley spears him down though and MVP hits a Drive By for the pin on Richards at 14:50.

**Rating:** C. Not bad but the injury was clearly going to be the focal point of the match. I'm kind of surprised they had this match here instead of swapping some people in for a big match at the pay per view. I'm really hoping Dixie's team doesn't hook up with the trio but it certainly looks like we're heading that way.

Bram tells Magnus to be out there for his match.

EC3 is worried about going through a table but Dixie says don't worry about it because she has business with MVP.

## Tigre Uno vs. Bram

Bram runs Tigre down to start and growls at him with some freaky eyes. Uno fights out of a choke but gets clotheslined down for his efforts. An Impaler DDT gets the pin on Tigre at 2:08.

Post match Magnus has to stop Bram from killing Tigre with the metal rod. Bram says the old Magnus would have ripped the mask off and beaten him senseless. Magnus says maybe Bram needs a better opponent. Maybe someone a little crazy. Maybe a former World Champion. Maybe...it should be Willow.

Anderson asks Gunner what's up with him and Shaw. Gunner says Anderson knows what it's like to be in the military and Shaw just needs someone to talk to. They're a team tonight.

Brittany wants Madison Rayne's help against the Beautiful People tonight. Madison tells her to not have the match and Brittany reluctantly agrees.

#### Gunner/Mr. Anderson vs. BroMans

The BroMans jump Gunner and Anderson to start and it's Gunner in early trouble. Double teaming ensues and Robbie gets two off a middle rope knee drop. Gunner comes back with a bad looking fall away slam and it's off to Anderson to clean house. Everything breaks down and the Mic Check sets up a top rope headbutt from Gunner for the pin on Robbie at 3:14.

**Rating:** D. Just a glorified squash here as Anderson vs. Gunner seems to be an upcoming story, even though Anderson vs. Storm was set up over the last few weeks. The BroMans have gone from Tag Team Champions to jobber tag team in just a few weeks, even though there's almost no one to challenge the Wolves.

Post match the Menagerie comes out to freak out the BroMans. The goofy guys (the BroMans if that's not clear) get destroyed.

Gail Kim agrees to be Brittany's partner.

Here are Dixie and Ethan to call out MVP. The trio comes out and Dixie offers some help, but MVP says he's got power and a title shot, so why does he need the Carters? Dixie threatens to go to Dallas and tell the board what kind of abuse of power MVP has been showing. So the board of directors doesn't even watch the show? MVP says he has a ton of money, which Dixie calls dirty. MVP says he'd love to play a game of money chicken and see who blinks first.

Eric and Bully come out with weapons but Ray says don't do it and wait for the time and place. MVP says it won't go well for the champion and Eric should just lose the title and go fish. Bully wants to go now but Eric stops him. "Time and place. Where were you a few seconds ago when you said that?" MVP makes Ray vs. Eric with EC3 as the referee. Ray says no but MVP threatens to fire him.

Ray says go ahead but Dixie asks who is going to pick up the pieces and fight her and MVP? Eric doesn't have the ego or stomach to fight this war. Also, isn't Bully from New York, because New Yorkers don't quit. Ray says he'll never quit until Dixie is gone. All the people want Dixie out of here forever and promises to put all five people in the ring through tables.

We look at EC3 injuring Angle's knee a few weeks back. Earlier today, Angle said the knee rehab is going well even though he's still in a cast. He thanks the fans for their support.

### Beautiful People vs. Brittany/Gail Kim

Brittany comes out and then runs up the ramp to point at Gail during her entrance. Angelina pops Brittany with forearms and a shoulder to start before running shaking her hips a bit. Velvet comes in for some choking in the corner but Brittany trips her up for two. The Beautiful People take her back into the corner for some double teaming before Brittany finally dives over for the tag. Brittany tags herself in and says she

has this, only to miss a Tajiri handspring into a moonsault. Angelina kicks her head off with the Botox Injection to give Velvet the pin at 5:40.

**Rating:** D+. Totally basic match here but the problem is the story. As I've been saying for weeks now, this is the same stuff we've been seeing forever with the Beautiful People and it hasn't been interesting in forever. It's like they're just completely out of ideas and they're doing the same stuff over and over again.

Ray says if he beats Eric he'll be #1 contender. They respect each other though, because that's just what you do in TNA.

After a break and Brittany is still in the ring. She calls Madison down for a talk and asks her why she wouldn't team up against the Beautiful People tonight. Madison says this is getting weird for her. The issues with the Beautiful People have been going on for years and there are some things that only her and the Beautiful People know about. She won't be responsible for Brittany being dragged into that. Brittany says she'll accept responsibility and only wants to be with Madison.

Madison asks what Brittany just said and Brittany gets close to her and repeats it. Rayne shoves her away and says this just went a bit too far. Brittany needs to keep her distance but that's too far. Brittany freaks out and asks why Madison doesn't like her. Cue the Beautiful People who say that's the real Madison Rayne and they made her that way. Madison says she's not like either of them and that she's coming for the Title next week.

The trio wants to do business with EC3 and he's kind of interested.

Bully Ray vs. Eric Young

Non-title. King is guest ring announcers, EC3 is guest

referee, Lashley is guest enforcer and MVP is guest timekeeper because this idea hasn't been done to death before. Lashley is holding Eric's title. Ray actually starts with an armdrag but Young nails a pair of his own before dropkicking Ray to the floor. King gets in a cheap shot but Young comes out to stand guard.

Back with the guys still being tentative and not wanting to fight each other while also having to watch the trio on the floor. Ray finally gets tired of dealing with it (and we're running out of time) and kicks Carter in the face. The trio comes in and beats both guys down for a no contest at roughly 10:00. I'm not going to rate this as a lot of it was during the break and there was barely any wrestling at all.

Samoa Joe returns for the save and does the always awesome side step of a King dive. A MuscleBuster to King ends the show.

**Overall Rating:** D. Do you remember back in the Aces and 8's clubhouse when they threw darts to pick out their next targets? TNA feels like they've put every old booking idea on a dart board and throw darts to pick what they put on the shows. This week's show was better than last week's as they had some other stuff get focus, but at the same time it had the same lack of energy that TNA constantly deals with.

Above all else though, the moment they lost me this week was when Dixie Carter said Ray didn't have the ability to fight this war. I actually said out loud, "Why does it have to be a war?". We just got done having a nearly two year war against Aces and 8's, and now that team's leader is on the other side of a war? Why do we need to do this same thing again? Between that and the two heel groups seeming to merge or at least have common goals (albeit with issues between the leaders), it feels like we're doing the same thing that people complained about for over a year. Why would I want to watch that again?

## Results

MVP/Kenny King/Bobby Lashley b. Wolves/Austin Aries – Drive By to Richards

Bram b. Tigre Uno – Impaler DDT

Gunner/Mr. Anderson b. BroMans – Flying headbutt to Robbie

Beautiful People b. Brittany/Gail Kim – Sky pinned Brittany after a Botox Injection from Love

Eric Young vs. Bully Ray went to a no contest when Kenny King, Bobby Lashley and MVP interfered

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# Impact Wrestling – May 15, 2014: Again. They're Doing It AGAIN.

## Impact Wrestling

Date: May 15, 2014

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

Another week has passed and the main story is, say it with me, a heel authority figure corrupted by power. Last week MVP turned heel and announced himself as the #1 contender to the World Title. Other than that we've got Bully Ray heading to Texas to go after Dixie Carter. Why he would wait a week to do so is beyond me but maybe they'll show us footage from the

previous week. Let's get to it.

Eric Young is waiting for MVP to arrive but security pulls him away from the boss' limo.

Video on MVP turning on Young last week.

Here's Young (minus the belt) in the arena to open things up. Eric rants about how he thought MVP was something different that's why he fought so hard for him. Anything would have been better than Dixie Carter but this isn't good at all. Eric says if MVP wants a fight he can come out here right now. MVP pops up on screen and says he did this for the money and the power. He's going to do Eric a favor though: Young can keep the title until Slammiversary when MVP takes it away.

Dixie is in Nashville driving around with Spud. They go to her house and see a bunch of tables spray painted with Dixie Fears Bully.

Recap of Bram trying to make Magnus into his old self by sending him after Willow.

Willow is ready for revenge but wants it in his realm.

### Bram/Magnus vs. Willow

They start in the dark rafters but are down on the floor in about ten seconds. Tagging is required here and it's Bram whipping Willow into the corner to start. Bram hammers Willow in the corner and brings in Magnus for some stomping of his own. Back to Bram but he gets reversed into the corner for forearms and the slingshot dropkick. Willow decks Magnus off the apron but can't hit the Twist. Magnus trips Willow up, allowing Bram to suplex him down. Back to Magnus with Bram sliding in a metal object. Magnus won't go insane like Bram wants though, allowing Willow to small package Magnus for the pin at 4:22.

**Rating:** D+. This was more storytelling than a match and



there's nothing wrong with that. Bram wanting Magnus to be all violent and evil again is a good idea for Magnus as his time on the top just didn't work for the most part. He's boring as a proper Englishman and all that jazz, so have him be evil instead and get something interesting going instead. Bram looked good.

Young trashes MVP's office.

Bully Ray calls Dixie and tells her and Spud to come inside.

Gail Kim comes to the ring and says she's not here to wear an evening gown or to get a makeover. She calls out the Beautiful People and gets what she wants. Angelina says the Beautiful People are what everyone should aspire to be. Velvet jumps Gail from behind and it's time for a match.

#### Velvet Sky vs. Gail Kim

Gail is in trouble to start but jumps over Velvet in the corner to get a breather. She hits the running cross body in the corner but misses a charge and falls out to the floor. Angelina gets in a few shots and throws Gail back inside for a DDT and two. Gail comes back with Eat Defeat out of nowhere for the pin at 3:43.

**Rating:** D. It's the same story with the same ideas and the same people we've seen doing this FOREVER now and I don't care anymore. I'm assuming Gail gets a title shot at Slammiversary, but who cares if she wins? What difference does it make as they've all been champion like a million times anyway. Match was nothing.

Gail gets laid out post match.

Ethan Carter brags about injuring Kurt Angle last week and says this is his world now.

#### Crazy Steve vs. Kazarian

Steve is the Menagerie's clown. Kaz sends him to the floor to start as we have carnival music and weird lighting. Kaz trips over Steve on the floor as the Freak stares him down. Steve low bridges Kaz to the floor as we're in full on comedy match mode. The balloons are brought in and Steve breaks them with a top rope splash. Now he's running around with a horn as Freak poses on the apron. Rebel is in the ring as well, hanging upside down on the ropes. The referee gets pantsed and it's thrown out at 2:34 with Kaz winning by DQ.

The Menagerie doesn't seem to mind losing.

Aries tries to get into MVP's office but security stops him. MVP comes out and gets some cheap shots but Young shows up to jump the boss as we take a break. Back with the two still fighting and MVP in control. He tries to hang Eric with his tie but the champion fights back as they head to the ramp. Young seems to be favoring his arm so MVP hammers away on it back in the ring. Security comes down to break it up but MVP gets in more shots on the arm, including a flying armbar. MVP makes the title match tonight with him getting the title shot.

Spud tries to sneak up on Ray in Dixie's house but the cameraman gives him away. Spud is captured but Ray tells the camera guys to stay there.

#### Mr. Anderson vs. James Storm

The opening bell is after a break and the brawl is already on the floor. Anderson takes him into the barricade but Anderson's hand is slammed into the steps to give Storm control. Back inside with Storm working over the arm but getting caught in the swinging neckbreaker. Storm tries to run from the Mic Check, allowing him to hit a quick low blow for two, as the referee catches Storm's feet on the ropes. A running DDT gets two on Anderson and it's beer bottle time. The referee takes the bottle away but Storm spits in Anderson's face, setting up the Last Call for the pin at 5:00.

**Rating:** D+. These matches are starting to get repetitive. The arm work went nowhere here and the match was only ok if you stretch a lot. It's nice to see Storm FINALLY get a win though. That's his first singles win on TV in over a year. That simply should not happen to a former World Champion.

Samuel Shaw is in an institution and can only say Christy.

Video on Sanada training and what the X Title means to him.

#### X-Division Title: Sanada vs. Tigre Uno vs. DJZ

DJZ is coming in with bad ribs. Sanada is defending and he teams up with Tigre to take Ion down to start. Tigre tries a quick rollup for two on the champ. There's a bunch of confetti in the ring from Sanada's entrance and it's all over everyone's back. Sanada misses a standing moonsault on Tigre but snaps up with a dropkick to the back. DJZ comes back in but gets caught in a rolling cradle for two for the champ.

Tigre stays on the floor for a bit as DJZ nails some forearms to Sanada in the corner. Sanada comes back with some chops as Tigre is still on the floor. Tigre finally comes back in with a dropkick to both guys, followed by a spinning Asai Moonsault to the floor. He throws DJZ back inside but Ion breaks up a moonsault. Sanada springboards back in with a chop to DJZ's head and hits a tiger suplex for the pin to retain at 5:33.

**Rating:** C. Sanada is still good but these guys are pretty much the entire division right now. It's the same problem the division has had for years now: you can find one guy that does well for awhile but the division is dead save for the month before Destination X. Nothing much to see here but it wasn't bad.

Ray calls Dixie from Spud's phone and tells her she's all alone.

Gunner comes to see Samuel Shaw in the institution because

Shaw needs someone to talk to.

We recap Ethan injuring Angle's knee last week.

Dixie goes into her house and finds Spud tied up. Bully shuts the door and asks Dixie if she ever thought it would come to this. He's doing it because of what she did at Sacrifice and wants to know if she believes he's afraid of her. Ray asks if she wants this to end. She does of course but he wants her to say she fears him. She's about to say it when Ethan jumps Ray from behind. Dixie says she fears no one.

We recap Roode and MVP brawling last week, leading to MVP suspending Roode from Impact for the foreseeable future.

#### TNA World Title: Eric Young vs. MVP

Young attacks before the bell but is sent bad arm first into the steps. MVP works it over even more as the match hasn't actually started yet. Back from a break with the opening bell and MVP staying on the bad arm. Eric fights up and hits some of his usual stuff before loading up the top rope elbow, only to have Kenny King of all people come down and shove Eric off the top for the DQ at 3:10.

**Rating:** D. I don't have a rating in me for this one. Most of it was just arm work anyway.

MVP tells the referee to restart the match or he's fired. The referee won't do it so King decks him. King and MVP beat up Eric until Bobby Lashley comes out for the save....before joining up with them to destroy Young. Eric is slammed through some chairs by Lashley and taunted with the belt. The new heel faction stands tall to end the show. Taz: "This is bad Mike." Preach it brother.

**Overall Rating:** D. TNA is entering it's summer lull and they're diving in head first. There was some watchable stuff tonight but the stories are just killing everything else. As

I've complained about probably a dozen times before, it feels like we've seen every bit of this before. The Beautiful People are dominant and calling people ugly, the heel authority figure(s) are receiving far more TV time than anyone else, and the title picture is about the plucky champion fighting to keep the main evil authority figure from gaining ultimate power.

It's the same stuff this company has run with for YEARS now and it's just not working here. We're coming up on one of the biggest shows of the year and looking at Eric Young vs. MVP for the World Title. I could picture that being a midcard title match, but TNA doesn't have time for a midcard title. Maybe if Dixie didn't have to have five segments a show we could, but Heaven forbid she's not one of the focal points of the show. The more I think about it the more it seems like they want her to turn face, which would be about the dumbest thing they could do. In other words, look for face Dixie to send her guy in to face MVP at BFG.

### Results

Willow b. Bram/Willow – Small package to Magnus

Gail Kim b. Velvet Sky – Eat Defeat

Kazarian b. Crazy Steve via DQ when Menagerie interfered

Sanada b. DJZ and Tigre Uno – Tiger suplex to DJZ

Eric Young b. MVP via DQ when Kenny King interfered

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# Impact Wrestling – April 24, 2014: A Big Stew

## Impact Wrestling

Date: April 24, 2014

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Taz, Mike Tenay

It's the go home show for Sacrifice and we have most of the card set up if you can remember some of the matches we've heard discussed here or there. Things are being set up for the TV show week to week, which defeats the purpose of having monthly PPVs but it's TNA so you know they have to screw up something every now and then. Let's get to it.

Angle is warming up in the back and says if Spud backs out of their match tonight, he's coming for EC3.

We recap the World Title change from a few weeks ago and last week's Monster's Ball match.

Here's Magnus with what looks like a grappling hook. He calls out Abyss because it's the Monster's fault that Magnus lost the title. Magnus calls Abyss a blithering idiot. The weapon in his hand is part of a turnbuckle and Magnus yells at Abyss for not coming down to ringside. Abyss says he'd be fired if he came down so Magnus fires him anyway. The monster says that it was never about the money but wanting to belong to someone. Abyss says he's still a monster and looks to want a fight but here's MVP to interrupt.

MVP says calm down and that Abyss isn't his favorite person after Abyss hit him with a chair a few weeks ago. However, MVP is all about second chances so maybe Abyss should be offered a

full time spot on the roster if he can win his match tonight. That match is of course against Magnus and MVP literally skips away. Abyss is thrilled and promises to take care of Magnus tonight.

Spud tells EC3 to save the speech this week but EC3 cuts him off and says last week he saw a ghost. It was actually real though and there's only one man that can beat Angle: Carter himself. Tonight Spud needs to be a gazelle for Carter. Ethan adjusts Spud's tie and the picture is starting to make sense to the Rockster.

### Rockstar Spud vs. Kurt Angle

Spud goes for a leg dive and is literally thrown across the ring. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker puts Spud down and Angle no sells everything until Carter trips him up to give Spud quick control. Angle runs the ropes for the suplex and the ankle lock gets the win at 2:04.

Ethan clips Angle post match but Willow makes the save.

The Beautiful People promise to give Madison a makeover.

Kenny King is in MVP's office when the boss comes in. King thinks he should be the top name on this program so MVP gives him a match right now.

Here's Madison Rayne for even more talking. She calls out the Beautiful People so here's Angelina to yell at her for trying to be a role model. Madison apologizes and the fight is on until the numbers catch up with her. They load up the bag but Brittany comes in to try for a save. That goes as well as you would expect and Velvet hits In Yo Face to Madison. Now Rayne gets the bag.

Mr. Anderson has something special planned for Samuel Shaw tonight.

Gail Kim wants to team up with Madison to help fight the

Beautiful People. Madison accepts and Brittany promises to be there again.

### Kenny King vs. Bobby Lashley

Lashley easily throws King down a few times to start and runs him over before throwing King off a headlock. King bails to the floor and tries to sneak up on Bobby, only to have Lashley pull a reverse leapfrog into a powerslam. Lashley moves the referee out of the corner and blocks a pike in the eye but gets caught by the other hand. King snaps Bobby's throat across the top rope and scores with a springboard missile dropkick.

Bobby fights back with pure power and hits a hard shoulder in the corner. Lashley grabs King's boot to the ribs but gets kicked in the head. King tries a Blockbuster but gets caught in mid air for a suplex. That looked awesome. King dives away to avoid the spear and takes the countout at 5:37.

**Rating:** D+. The Blockbuster counter was awesome but this was a VERY dull match otherwise. It was basically a squash until King walked out at the end. I'm not sure how seeing Kenny getting beaten up for four minutes and then leaving makes me want to see him fight even more but there are a lot of things I don't get in TNA.

Mr. Anderson goes to see Samuel Shaw's family and the mom's name is Christy. Anderson's face is rather amusing. More on this later.

Beer Money has a talk in the back and after ranting about history a bit, Storm wants credit for making Gunner what he is today.

### Austin Aries vs. MVP

This is a result of Aries turning his back on MVP at Lockdown and then losing the match. Aries grabs a cravate to start but



MVP takes over with a wristlock. A nice flip gets Aries out of a headlock and he nails MVP with a low dropkick. MVP comes right back with a facebuster and the Ballin Elbow but Aries bails outside. The boss dives onto Aries as the announcers are in their own little world. Aries dropkicks him back to the floor and hits a top rope ax handle so let's talk about Abyss.

Back in and the slingshot hilo sets up a running elbow drop for two on MVP and a middle rope elbow to the back gets the same. Aries misses the running dropkick but bites his way out of a standing choke. MVP comes right back with a discus lariat for two but walks into a facebuster to put both guys down. Aries misses a 450 and the Drive By is good for the pin at 6:38.

**Rating:** C. It's the best match and segment of the night but I'm still not interested in what they're doing here. That's the story of the entire show so far: it's just not all that interesting and things aren't getting much better. MVP beating Aries changes nothing and it ends a storyline that didn't have a lot of interest in the first place. How does seeing this make me want to buy Sacrifice?

Video on Sanada.

Back at the Shaw house with the mom straight out of Leave it to Beaver talking about how talented her son is. She's baking homemade apple pie for Samuel who still lives in the basement. So what was the apartment he took Christy to a few months ago?

### James Storm/Bobby Roode vs. Bully Ray/Gunner

Storm grabs a headlock on Ray after a break but both members of Beer Money are taken down with backdrops. Gunner comes in to work on Storm's arm as we hear about their latest gimmick match on Sunday, this one being an I Quit match. Ray fights out of the corner but Roode distracts the referee so Storm can crotch him against the post. Storm: "IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE FAT!"

Back in and Roode cranks on a front facelock until Ray fights up, only to be slammed back down. Ray comes back with a suplex and makes the hot tag to Gunner for some house cleaning. Gunner plays D-Von for What's Up on Storm and it's table time. Ray misses an elbow from the apron to drive himself through the table. Back inside Gunner hits an F5 on Roode but walks into the Last Call for the pin at 7:05.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing wrong with mixing up two feuds, but at the end of the day I've seen Gunner vs. Storm so many times now that I'm not interested in it anymore. Roode vs. Ray is fine but I've pretty much forgotten why they're fighting (and no I'm not asking people to tell me). The match was fine though.

Magnus says it's his time.

Anderson goes downstairs with the mom giving a creepy wave as the door shuts. Mr. sees something and says oh my god as we go to a break.

Anderson looks at the room and it's designed like an 8 year old's. Shaw comes in and does something as the cameraman leaves. The mom is still the same kind of Stepford Wife that she was before and hugs her son as he comes up from the basement. Creepy, creepy segment.

#### Beautiful People vs. Gail Kim/Madison Rayne

Madison cleans house to start and the Beautiful People are knocked to the floor for a double dropkick through the ropes. Velvet and Madison are back in the ring now for Madison's crotch slam to the mat before it's back to Gail for some right hands and a clothesline. Kim misses a charge into the corner and it's off to Angelina for some shots to the face. She gets caught in the corner for Gail's running cross body to the ribs though and everything breaks down.

Back in for a leg choke from Gail to make Angelina look annoyed. Sky's distraction breaks up the hold and Angelina

grabs a sleeper, only to have Gail come out with a backbreaker. Rayne comes back in for a bad looking enziguiri as the crowd goes SILENT. Not for a botch or anything but because they just don't seem interested. Thankfully Angelina gets the hint and rolls up Madison with a handful of tights for the pin at 5:00.

**Rating:** D. The crowd told the whole story here. There was just nothing interesting going on out there and the people didn't care. It's the same story we've seen about 8,000 times now in this division and nothing has changed at all. The Beautiful People aren't interesting as there's no one to fight them because TNA can't make new stars for this division. Where was Brittany either?

Knux is back at the carnival with I think his ex-girlfriend. He says he has to go back to Impact because it's what he does best. She'll be supportive of him for the first time, but says she's going with him.

Abyss says he lost sight of the one person who cares about him and tonight is for him.

The Wolves want the Tag Team Titles. It's a handicap match with Zema Ion joining the Bro Mans.

We run down the PPV card.

### Magnus vs. Abyss

Eric Young comes out for commentary and if Abyss wins he gets a full time job. Abyss takes him into the corner to start and nails some clotheslines before launching the Brit to the floor. Back with Magnus working on the leg as Abyss is supposed to be a face after being all violent for so many weeks. The leg is wrapped around the post but Abyss grabs him by the throat....and Magnus kicks him low for the DQ at 7:40.

**Rating:** D. Well that...happened. It's angle advancement but

much like the rest of this show, the angles aren't all that interesting. This was supposed to be a big face turn for Abyss I think, but it really doesn't work when he spent the last few weeks trying to torture the new top face.

Post match Magnus beats on him with a chair until Young comes down and gets beaten down as well.

An ad for the fallout show from Sacrifice eats up the last minute. Not an ad FOR THE PAY PER VIEW mind you, but an ad for the TV show you just watched.

**Overall Rating:** D. This was a really boring show. That's the best word to describe it as almost nothing on here made me want to watch another show going forward. It's a bunch of ideas we've seen before with a lot of the same characters and nothing that has been made better by changing around the faces. Sacrifices just does not need to be a PPV as TNA currently feels like a bunch of old ideas thrown into a blender and put on mix to see if it works better if you twist everything around. Shockingly enough, it's not working.

## Results

Kurt Angle b. Rockstar – Ankle lock

Bobby Lashley b. Kenny King via countout

MVP b. Austin Aries – Drive By

Bobby Roode/James Storm b. Gunner/Bully Ray – Last Call to Gunner

Beautiful People b. Madison Rayne/Gail Kim – Rollup to Rayne

Abyss b. Magnus via DQ when Magnus kicked Abyss low

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# Impact Wrestling – April 3, 2014: Filling Up The Russo Bingo Card

## Impact Wrestling

Date: April 3, 2014

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

It's a big show this week with a fourway for the World Title as Magnus defends against Eric Young, Samoa Joe and his own employee Abyss. Other than that we also have a tag team tables match between Bully Ray/Willow vs. Ethan Carter III/Bobby Roode as two feuds are combined. Hardy certainly is quick to forgive Ray for that hammer to the head at last year's Lockdown. Let's get to it.

The opening video is your standard recap of the four way for the title.

### Bully Ray/Willow vs. Ethan Carter III/Bobby Roode

Tables match. It's a brawl to start with the feuding parties teaming off and the good guys taking an early advantage. Poetry in Motion crushes Roode in the corner and there's a What's Up for Ethan. Ray wants the tables and the fans chant for them as well. Ray throws one in but Roode takes him down with a clothesline while Ethan nails Willow with a dropkick. A double backdrop through the table doesn't quite work as Ray makes the save, only to get forearmed down by Carter.

Hardy makes the same save from a double suplex but takes a Carter clothesline. Carter tries to ram Willow face first into the mat but gets

screamed at for his efforts. A cartwheel into a splash sets up the slingshot dropkick and Willow dances a bit. The Twisting Stunner sets up a Twist of Fate but here's Spud in a wheelchair to distract the Swanton.

Ethan is still on the table though so Ray goes up, only to have Roode shove him over the table instead. Roode goes up but Bully grabs a crotch claw of all things before throwing him into Ethan. A big double clothesline drops the heels and there's the Flip Flop and Fly to Bobby. Roode is able to save Ethan from a powerbomb through the table though and catches Ray in a spinebuster through the table for the win at 6:14.

**Rating:** C. It was energetic but there wasn't much to see here. Willow was nowhere to be seen for the last few minutes but at least we still have the two singles matches to look forward to. Unfortunately, the Russo booking theory strikes again: a regular match between Roode and Ray is going to see lame now after all these table spots over the last few weeks.

Bobby hits the Roode Bomb to send Ray through another table but he's still not done. A top rope splash puts Ray through another table. Did Willow get shot or something?

Kenny King shows up on a golf cart but is told he doesn't have a match. He tips the production guy anyway.

Magnus says don't worry about Abyss tonight.

MVP is thrilled for the viewers tonight because the card is so awesome. Kenny King comes in and asks why he doesn't have a match but is told to come back later.

#### Mr. Anderson vs. Samuel Shaw

This is a straitjacket match which is like a casket match but you know,

with a straitjacket instead of a casket. You have to put the other guy in it to win. Before the match Shaw insists that he isn't creepy and talks about his hands making art. The worst crime in society is to be ordinary but Anderson jump Shaw to start on the fight on the floor. Shaw is sent into the steps and Anderson walks around a lot as we go to a break.

Back with Shaw hitting Anderson with the straitjacket and nailing some right hands. Anderson's arms go into the jacket but he fights back with shots to the face and his usual stuff, despite barely being able to use his arms. The rolling fireman's carry puts Shaw down but he low blows his way to freedom. Anderson is taken down by the choke but fights out of another attempt at being put in the jacket. The problem with this match is quickly made obvious: it takes a LONG time to put someone in the jacket so it takes a long time for Shaw to get it on for the win at 9:16.

**Rating:** D. Thirty three minutes in and two gimmick matches down. This was just stupid all around with a gimmick that didn't work at all and took forever to get anywhere. The feud has just kept going with no real advancement in weeks. Shaw is creepy and wants Christy, who you can almost bet will be sleeping with him soon.

The Beautiful People say they made Madison and they'll break her tonight, no matter who her mystery partner is.

Eric Young says he made the monster and is scared of what he's become.

We're supposed to start the first match a best of three series for Sanada's X-Division Title but we have an interruption. Before the match Kenny King comes out and says he means no disrespect to his international friends but this should be about him. He's the Pretty Boy Pitbull and he is the X-Division. He was doing stuff that Mil Mascaras was only dreaming of when he was a toddler but MVP breaks things up after that great line. He says King can't mess with his show, which sends King into a rant about how this isn't MVP's show.

King wants to be in the ring but MVP says the card is booked for tonight. He offers King a spot next week but Kenny has another idea: an exhibition match with MVP tonight. MVP says no again but King slaps him in the face. The challenge goes out again and MVP says it's on for tonight.

### Sanada vs. Tigre Uno

The match starts after a break with some very fast paced kicks and counters to kicks, including a kick sending Sanada out to the floor. Back in and Tigre cranks on both of the champion's arms until Sanada gets to the corner and takes Uno down, only to miss a standing moonsault. Uno misses a splash in the corner and gets rolled up for a close two count. After a quick run to the floor, Tigre comes back in with a spinwheel kick, only to springboard into a dropkick. Sanada gets crotched on the top rope but gets his knees up to block a split legged moonsault. A tiger suplex is enough to pin Tigre at 3:40.

**Rating:** C. Standard cruiserweight style match here with both guys flying all over the place for a few minutes. They better have Tigre at least win one match though or he looks like a loser who got beat two straight falls, albeit against a very talented guy in Sanada. It didn't have time to go anywhere but it was still good enough while it lasted.

Magnus says he'll tell us where Abyss has been.

The new Knockout Brittany offers to be Madison's partner tonight in acting reminiscent of a bad Divas segment. Madison turns her down because it's a never ending cycle with the Beautiful People. Brittany won't take no for an answer and Madison eventually gives in.

Magnus calls Abyss to the ring and here's the monster in a suit. The champ says Abyss looks like a winner because of who he's associated with. They need to discuss strategy for the match tonight, which really is a handicap match instead of a four corners match. Magnus says everyone knows what is going to happen tonight because they're a team. He brings



up James Mitchell and Eric Young to scare Abyss before giving him a big hug. They go to leave but Eric Young jumps them in the aisle. This goes about as well as you would expect until Joe makes the save. Eric isn't pleased for some reason.

Robbie E comes in to see MVP and says Jesse is injured so the Bro Mans can't defend against the Wolves tonight. Lawsuits are threatened and the title match is off.

We get more of Knux going back to see his dad about shutting down the family carnival. The dad invites him in and says Knux was supposed to take all this stuff over. Knux says his dad always told him to do what he dreamed of but now dad wants him to come back here and keep things going to help a lot of people. Knux agrees to stay for a few days.

#### Beautiful People vs. Brittany/Madison Rayne

Brittany starts with Love and scores with some early armdrags and a bad looking slam. Off to Velvet who charges into an elbow but trips Brittany to the mat. A double Beautiful Elbow gets two for Angelina as Tenay plugs the Bellator show. The Beautiful People double team Brittany for a bit until she takes Love down and makes the hot tag to Rayne. Brittany tags herself back in for no apparent reason as everything breaks down. A quick double kick from the Beautiful People (called the Makeover) is enough to pin Brittany at 4:03.

**Rating:** D+. I'm not liking this Beautiful People reunion so far as it's basically the same story we saw from them a few years back and now we're just watching it again. What exactly can they accomplish in the division again? Getting the title back? It's not like they haven't been able to do that already, so why are we rehashing the same idea?

#### Kenny King vs. MVP

This is an exhibition match, which will be explained later I assume. They shake hands to start and MVP puts on a wristlock. King escapes and stands on the buckle for a bit as this is slow paced to start. They trade wristlocks and hammerlocks until King grabs a headlock. MVP trips King down and puts on an STF but lets it go for no apparent reason.

Kenny takes him down again before flipping up to his feet for some posing. We get some chain wrestling on the mat into a front facelock from MVP as the fans chant YOU STILL GOT IT. They finally start throwing punches and it turns into a scrap on the mat until the bell rings for no apparent reason at 5:22.

**Rating:** D+. So King is going to prove how entertaining he is by having a boring match? This didn't work for me either as MVP is getting less and less interesting every week. He's just another authority figure who is in over his head and it's not going anywhere. Nothing match for the most part here but it looked to be setting something up for the future.

Magnus asks if Ethan has his back tonight. Carter thinks Magnus is scared of Abyss and doesn't answer.

MVP jumps King in the back.

TNA World Title: Samoa Joe vs. Eric Young vs. Magnus vs. Abyss

This is one fall to a finish and Magnus is defending. Abyss goes after Eric as the champion fires off forearms to Joe against the ropes. Joe comes back with the running backsplash before they head outside. Young slides through Abyss' legs and dropkicks him to the floor before hitting a suicide dive to take out all three guys. Back in and Eric gets two on Magnus via a high cross body. Abyss splashes his boss by mistake, leaving us with Eric vs. Joe. Magnus and Abyss get back into things as we take a break.

Back with Magnus and Abyss in control as the champion directs the monster on who to attack. Abyss rips at Joe's face as Magnus drops Eric with an elbow to the face. The slow heel dominance continues as Brian Hebner runs away from Abyss. Eric is sat on the top rope but Magnus wants to do this one himself. Young fights out of a superplex attempt and knocks Abyss back, setting up a double missile dropkick.

Magnus stops the momentum by throwing Eric out to the floor though, only to have Joe come back and take over. A powerslam gets two on Magnus but Eric makes the save. The same move gets the same result on Young with Abyss making the save. There's a powerslam to Abyss but Joe can't follow up. Instead he grabs the choke on Magnus but the champion grabs the referee and kicks the Samoan low.

The Black Hole Slam puts Joe down and Magnus whips him knees first into the steps. Young bites his way out of a chokeslam but walks into a Black Hole Slam of his own. Abyss doesn't cover though as Magnus tells him no. Magnus slowly explains things to Abyss and drops the elbow on Young to retain the title at 14:13.

**Rating:** C+. It's not a bad match but the angle was more important than the wrestling. I have a feeling this gives us Joe vs. Magnus again because we still haven't had a clean fall between them. The problem is that's not a very interesting story and it's really starting to bring things down. Eric taking the fall makes by far the most sense though.

Next week: The Wrath of Dixie. Oh joy.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This Russo booking is already getting old again. The stories aren't interesting and it's gimmick overload everywhere else. Why we can't just have some simple stories and good matches is beyond me, but the fact that it's worked best for TNA over the years has no bearing on the current product whatsoever. The show wasn't bad but there's nothing I want to see going forward, and that's not good.

## Results

Bobby Roode/Ethan Carter III b. Willow/Jeff Hardy – Spinebuster to Ray through a table

Samuel Shaw b. Mr. Anderson – Shaw put Anderson in the straitjacket

Sanada b. Tigre Uno – Tiger suplex

Beautiful People b. Brittany/Madison Rayne – Makeover to Brittany

MVP vs. Kenny King went to a no contest

Magnus b. Abyss, Eric Young and Samoa Joe – Top rope elbow to Young

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# Wrestler of the Day – February 5: Madison Rayne

We'll stay in TNA today with someone a bit better looking than Sabin: Madison Rayne.

The first match I have is a rarity, as I have no idea when or where it's from. It's from September 2006 at the latest and might be from Ohio Championship Wrestling but I'm really not sure. Madison is of course Lexi

Lane.

### Lexi Lane vs. Traci Brooks

Both girls appear to be faces here and they're in a high school gym. Both girls try quick rollups for two each and it's a standoff. Signs suggest this is Hopewell, Ohio, which apparently is a big city for Ohio Championship Wrestling. They hit the mat with Lane putting on a body scissors and rolling Traci (nearly falling out of her top) around for two.

Traci gets spanked into the corner and the fans are far more into the match all of a sudden. Brooks takes her down for some of her own medicine and the referee gets some as well. Lexi takes her to the mat with a headlock but Brooks fights up and gets two off a backbreaker. The referee is accused of looking at Traci's chest instead of counting before they trade strikes in the corner. Lexi gets two off a clothesline to the ribs (called a spear) followed by some weak forearms. A bad looking X Factor gets the same and Lane goes up for a cross body, only to have Traci roll her through for the pin with a handful of trunks.

**Raitng:** D+. It was clear that both of them were brand new here and at that point you can't blame them for not working so well. When you're that young the main thing you need is ring time and this is the place to get it. They're clearly still learning the basics and there's nothing wrong with that.

After getting her start in Shimmer as Ashley Lane, Madison made her debut in TNA in early 2009. She soon joined the Beautiful People with Velvet Sky and Angelina Love and made her PPV debut in a six person tag at Destination X 2009.

### Beautiful People vs. Roxxi/Taylor Wilde/The Governor

Yes, the Governor is the Sarah Palin character that Daffney

played. What is up with TNA being all political? There are still three Beautiful People at this point: Angelina, Velvet and Madison. At least Wilde looks good here. Governor (in a pantsuit) vs. Velvet to start. The fans chant yes we can because the Orlando fans are rather annoying.

Off to Roxxi and then to Taylor. The non-beautiful ones are tagging in really fast here. Apparently Madison is just now an official member of the BP. Velvet locks in an Octopus Hold to Roxxi who escapes and kicks her in the face. Sign: "Botchmania 71 = this match." It's pretty clear the fans aren't that into this but that's to be expected.

It's one of those matches where stuff is happening but there isn't anything to talk about. Taylor is called the upset queen still despite that being like two years prior to this. Taylor comes in and cleans house as this is one of the least interesting matches I've seen in years. Everything breaks down and the Governor dives over the top to the floor to take out everyone not named Madison on the other team. Madison gets caught in a bridging German by Wilde to end this.

**Rating:** D. What the heck was the point of this? You hear the term "TV match" a lot and this is the definition of one. Nothing at all about this match implies that it should be on a PPV in the slightest and yet here it is, opening the show. You can tell a lot about a PPV and how much effort is put into it by the opener and this one was awful. No one cared, nothing happened and it was short. Weak match indeed and I'm not looking forward to the rest of this show at all now.

The Beautiful People would dominate the Knockouts division in the coming years but they needed some gold. One of their attempts to gain some would come at Turning Point 2009 in a six Knockouts tag with the singles and Tag Titles on the line.

## Knockout Title/Knockout Tag Titles: Beautiful People vs. ODB/Taylor Wilde/Sarita

All titles on the line here and the non-beautiful people are champions. No word on how the titles are split up if one of the three pins a tag champion (Wilde/Sarita). You know I wonder what ODB stands for. I think I'll see what I can come up with (and spare me the comments saying what it stands for. I know already and I need something to get me through this match). The Beautiful People here are Velvet, Lacey and Madison here. Velvet vs. Wilde to start us off but it's off to Sarita quickly. Ok make that Department of Bacon. We're less than a minute in and they've all been in already.

Headbutt to the ribs gets two for Date of Birth. Madison comes in and does the touch yourself and burn your finger thing. Instead here though she has to go over to the corner and has Velvet blow on it. I guess men and women both want to be blown by her. The delay allows Original Daniel Bryan to bring in Sarita to fight Madison. The tag champions set up a double team moonsault (belly to back release into a moonsault by Taylor) for two.

Madison takes over and it's off to Madison. After mounting Wilde she throws on a chinlock for about 2 seconds and hammers away a bit more. The fans say Lacey can't wrestle so we're back off to Velvet. Octopus hold goes on for a few seconds so the announcers can make Inoki jokes. An elbow breaks the hold and it's cold tag to Board of Directors. After a fallaway slam to Velvet everything breaks down. They triple team Operation Break Dance which fails completely. TKO ends Madison.

**Rating:** D. Weak match here that had no point at all being on the PPV. This is what Impact is for: six minute matches with hot women doing nothing of note for the entire match. Also, is there a reason to keep the titles on there? Oxford Dictionary

of Britain doesn't get us anywhere as champion. Angelina would be back soon which helped the division a lot. Anyway, weak match.

Rayne would get her own singles title at Lockdown 2010 in another six person tag with all titles on the line.

#### Knockout's Title/Tag Titles: Beautiful People vs. Tara/Angelina Love

Ok so it's your standard two singles wrestlers vs. tag champions. You know the rules I'm sure. Yep Tara is gorgeous. Velvet and Angelina start us off. Taz is rather annoying on commentary to say the least. Some nice double teaming from the BP there. Make jokes amongst yourselves. Tara pulls an Angle and totally misses a moonsault. Good to see that the accuracy is there still.

Angel is better in the ring than she's given credit for. Madison takes the Widow's Peak but Velvet makes the save. Lacey gets in somehow and drills Tara in the head with a belt to give Madison Rayne the Knockout's Title. So that's two straight title changes with the champion not getting pinned. Ok then. I do love the BP being the focus of the division. That's intelligent and not sarcastic actually.

**Rating:** C-. Not terrible actually. Love is underrated in the ring and Tara is always solid. The booking is right here and we don't get the wacky tag partners which is never any good. Madison being champion is something new that could be worth a try. I'm rather happy for the first near hour of this show. I must be coming down with something.

Madison would win her third Knockouts Title when she made Tara lay down for her on October 14, 2010's Impact. Since that's a 4 second match,



we'll look at one of her title defenses at Genesis 2011 against Mickie James.

### Knockouts Title: Mickie James vs. Madison Rayne

Mickie is still insanely sexy. Madison is doing the whole classy chick gimmick thing again after debuting it a few days ago. Or was it ten days ago? Does it really matter? Madison runs away to start but gets caught in an armdrag for two. All Mickie to start of course as Madison shrieks. Madison runs as Tazz makes sex jokes.

The fans say Madison can't wrestle. I'm so fed up with them it's unreal. Madison uses the ropes to get two in the corner. This is about as uninteresting as it could be but they're both hot so that helps a lot. Rana out of the corner by Mickie drops the champion on her head. Since it's TNA we change camera angles every 9 seconds.

Cravate by Madison as we're killing time now. There's a chinlock as this is going way too long, nearly at 9 minutes now. Mickie gets a nice counter and a rollup for two. Boot to the head gets two for Madison. Champ tries the head bounce thing she does but Mickie counters into a wheelbarrow slam for two. DDT is reversed and Madison gets spanked.

Thesz Press gets no cover. Mickie sets for the DDT but here's Tara because she and Mickie haven't spent enough time together already. Madison plays possum and loads up her arm with something to get the pin to retain the title. For the love of crap get the title off of her already.

**Rating:** D. This got nearly 14 minutes. Do I need to explain to you why this was a bad idea? It wasn't any good for the most part as Mickie dominated the whole time. I'm bored out of my mind with Madison and her reign as she does nothing

interesting while Mickie and Tara are definitely the best girls on the roster. But hey let's keep pushing through with the same thing the whole time right? Bad match.

The only thing left for Madison to achieve was a Knockouts Tag Title and she would get a shot on the November 3, 2011 episode of Impact.

Knockout Tag Titles: Tara/Brooke Tessmacher vs. Gail Kim/Madison Rayne

Time for the monthly defense of the titles. Brooke's outfit is designed like a Texas flag for some reason. She and Madison start us off but it's off to Tara quickly. The arm work begins as the champions are tagging fast. Gail comes in and is all dominant and evil for a bit. Tessmacher's corner hijinks don't really work this time. Gail beats on Brooke a bit more until it's a hot tag to Tara. Everything breaks down and there's the Widow's Peak. Karen Jarrett has the referee though and Eat Defeat gives us new champions at 5:05.

**Rating:** D+. It's not like anyone cares about the belts, but this is what you do with the titles here as they're actually having a division wide angle going on. Karen is evil and trying to have her girls get the titles. It's not particularly interesting but a dull story is better than a repetitive one on a treadmill like the Divas have so this was fine, just not that interesting.

Madison would be gone for most of 2013 due to getting pregnant, but she would get the Knockouts Title one more time before the end of the year at Hardcore Justice 2012.

Knockouts Title: Madison Rayne vs. Miss Tessmacher

Tessmacher is defending. They shove each other around to start and Earl

is refereeing. WHY WOULD STING LET HIM DO THAT? Madison takes over by sending Tessmacher into the corner and then launches her across the ring by the hair. That has to hurt like no other. Tessmacher comes back with some clotheslines but walks into a northern lights suplex for two. The real comeback starts with some clotheslines but that mat slam of Tessmacher's is countered. The champ slams her down by the hair and hits a top rope elbow for two. Out of nowhere Madison grabs a rollup and uses the ropes for the pin and the title at 5:30.

**Rating:** D. This was your usual Knockouts match: not that good but the girls look good in their little outfits. Hebner didn't cheat at all in this which makes the sights of Madison kissing him COMPLETELY POINTLESS. Yes I get that it could mean something later, but WHY DID I HAVE TO SEE THAT HAPPEN IN THE FIRST PLACE??? Not a terrible match but man alive I do not care about women's wrestling at all in either company. It's just dull all around.

We'll close things out with Madison's return to the company in 2013 after having a baby and a title shot against Knockouts Champion Gail Kim from Genesis 2014.

#### Knockouts Title: Gail Kim vs. Madison Rayne

Madison is challenging but is still beaten down from the attack from before the break. Kim beats her down even more by stomping away in the corner but Madison comes back with a rollup for two of her own. Madison can't shake off all of the punishment from earlier though and staggers down off a forearm to the head. A shoulder block sends the champion to the floor but Tapa runs Madison over and chokes her down. Tapa is finally ejected but Gail does just fine by putting on the Figure Four around the post. The referee breaks it up and Rayne comes back with a flapjack and the Rayne Drop for the pin and the title at 4:00.

**Rating:** D. Just a match here but at least it ended the less than enthralling Gail Kim title reign. Kim is very talented in the ring but

she's a black hole of charisma, making her title reigns very difficult to sit through. Rayne could be an improvement if she's actually given the chance to do something different.

I'm kind of surprised by how low most of these ratings are. Madison is a better worker than a lot of the Knockouts but it's true that she owes a lot of her job to her looks. To be fair though, she can only do so much with limited talent around her. One other thing: you might have noticed the lack of stories here and that's a big problem for the Knockouts. Almost all they have are title matches with nothing connecting them and that gets old in a hurry.

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