

# Monday Night Raw – October 11, 2021: The Pre-Revolution Is Upon Us

## Monday Night Raw

Date: October 11, 2021

Location: Chase Center, San Francisco, California

Commentators: Jimmy Smith, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

We're less than two weeks away from Crown Jewel and last week, Smackdown added a Hell in the Cell match to the card. That could mean Raw needs to add a huge match of its own, but you never can tell with these things. Hopefully this show can add a nice feeling to the Queen's Crown Tournament, as the Smackdown matches were nearly insulting last week. Let's get to it.

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

Here is Drew McIntyre, with his sword, to get things going. He thinks it's a fun idea that the Scottish Warrior is kicking it off in the home of the Warriors and welcomes us to the show. Drew runs down the Crown Jewel card and says he'll be winning the WWE Title in the match everyone is going to be talking about. McIntyre has a story from earlier today but here is Big E. to interrupt.

Big E. talks about the sweet nectar of being champion dripping down his chin and between his nipples. While Drew may be a specimen, he is not going to take the title from him. Drew can get to moving, or stay on the tracks and get run over. That makes Drew chuckle and he talks about how Big E. remembers what it means to win the title because it wasn't that long ago. Drew is a two time champion who held the title for over 300 days, but he is still looking for his moment. That moment is coming at Crown Jewel and there is nothing Big E. can do

about it.

Cue the Usos to say they're hyped up for the match and that the Bloodline is in their city. They know that Roman Reigns is going to beat Brock Lesnar at Crown Jewel, but who is he facing at Survivor Series? Either way, they think that Reigns is going to take the WWE Title and add it to his trophy case. The Usos go to leave but Big E. calls them back, with the challenge being set for tonight. A double superkick drops McIntyre and Big E.

Xavier Woods and Kofi Kingston are in the back and have no comment about the idea of facing each other in the King of the Ring. Good thing they were there for that non-answer and not out there to help chase off their longtime rivals the Usos, who have titles they might want and just attacked their best friend.

#### King of the Ring First Round: Xavier Woods vs. Ricochet

Kofi Kingston is here with Woods and all three of them admire the crown. Feeling out process to start with neither being able to get very far. Woods knocks him to the apron and breaks up a springboard to bring Ricochet right back down. That means Woods can go up top, with Ricochet walking over for a top rope superplex and a heck of a crash to leave both guys in trouble as we take a break.

Back with Ricochet dropping Woods again and getting two off a backplash. Woods manages to send Ricochet ribs first into the ropes though, setting up a stomp to the back and a middle rope legdrop for two. Back up and Ricochet grabs a fireman's carry for a rolling Death Valley Driver and a kick to the face. Woods is smart enough to roll outside, only to have Ricochet hit a huge flip dive over the post to take Woods down again. Back in and Ricochet nails a suicide shoulder. Make it an attempt at a pair but this time Woods sends him into the barricade two. Back in and the rope walk elbow finishes

Ricochet at 10:45.

**Rating:** B-. As much as I don't like seeing Ricochet lose, I do like seeing Woods getting a chance to do his own thing. Woods has been obsessed with winning the tournament over the last few months and it makes sense to go with that. If nothing else, Woods has never gotten any singles glory so even a nice run in the tournament would be more than he usually gets.

We recap RKBro fighting with AJ Styles/Omos last week.

Riddle comes up to Randy Orton and says he has challenged Omos to a match tonight. Riddle says he was following Orton's example from last week because he thinks of Orton as a mentor. Orton says there is no plan because fighting Omos one on one isn't a good idea. Tonight, Riddle is on his own. Riddle thinks "no plan" is the plan and knows he'll see Orton out there later. With Riddle gone, Orton sighs a bit.

#### Cedric Alexander/Shelton Benjamin vs. Mustafa Ali/Mansoor

Ali slips a bit while backflipping out of an atomic drop so it's off to Mansoor, who kicks Alexander in the face. Everything breaks down and Alexander Michinoku Drivers Ali for the pin at 1:22.

Post match Mansoor goes to help Ali up but gets shoved back down.

We recap Shayna Baszler's recent path of destruction, with Doudrop saving Dana Brooke's arm last week.

#### Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Dana Brooke vs. Shayna Baszler

In case last week's squash wasn't enough. Brooke gets powered into the corner to start but fights back with some right hands in another corner. The Kirifuda Clutch is countered into some rollups for two on Baszler but she is back with a knee to the face for the pin at 1:25. So yeah, somehow after the

complaints over the Smackdown matches not getting time, they managed to make this one even shorter.

Charlotte doesn't care about the tournament because she only cares about herself. Tonight she is in a match with a bunch of women who can't walk the walk, because Charlotte is the greatest ever. This was also longer than the tournament match.

### Riddle vs. Omos

Before the match, Riddle talks about how he has been thinking lately, which is something he does a lot. He was the one with the idea of Brogurt, but it is clear Omos has been on the brotein. Riddle forgets what he is talking about, which probably happens to everyone at some point. Riddle: "OK RANDY NOW!" Singing Orton's song doesn't work either so AJ Styles says Riddle is just stalling, as everyone can see. Riddle: "RANDY! RANDY! RANDY!"

The bell rings so Riddle drops to the floor to kick away at AJ, leaving Omos to pull him back inside. A corner splash sets up the chokeslam to cover Riddle, but AJ says not so fast. AJ wants to see some of the martial arts Omos learned in second grade, so we see Omos kicking him in the head. AJ calls for two replays and then the chokebomb finishes Riddle at 2:29.

Post match Orton's music hits but there is no Orton. AJ even turns around to see if Orton is running in and then sends Omos outside to watch. Somehow Orton gets inside anyway and hits the RKO on Styles.

We recap the opening segment.

Drew McIntyre comes up to Big E. to yell about what happened. Big E. thinks they need to get on the same page. For one night only, they'll let bygones be bygones. Drew agrees, thinking that Roman Reigns is scared of them. Big E. talks about his nipples before we get a mock Mega Powers handshake. I have no idea why Drew waited 45 minutes to find Big E. and have this

chat.

Here's Bobby Lashley to look at a recap of his feud with Goldberg. Back in the arena, Lashley asks if fans saw Goldberg talking about ending Lashley's life. Lashley talks about how that is a horrible thing to a father and how he is a man who defended the WWE Title for half a year. Or would you rather cheer for a guy in cutoff sleeves screaming about MURDER? Lashley talks about how the match at Crown Jewel has to be No Holds Barred because Goldberg is a bit crazy. Goldberg can't beat him, and he certainly can't kill the Almighty.

Bianca Belair doesn't want to hear about Bianca Belair because she is the blueprint of greatness. Tonight she's beating Charlotte and then winning the Smackdown Women's Title at Crown Jewel.

#### Jeff Hardy vs. Austin Theory

Hardy sends him into the corner to start and scores with a middle rope ax handle. The Twisting Stunner is blocked early on and Theory hits a rolling dropkick. The armbar goes on...and it's time for the 24/7 Title chase, because presenting a potential future star in Theory isn't as important as a comedy title. With that waste of time out of the way, Hardy does his usual but misses the Swanton, allowing Theory to roll him up (with pants) for the pin at 2:06. That's a huge relief after where it felt like they were going.

We recap the non-contract signing from Smackdown.

Bianca Belair remembers beating Sasha Banks at Wrestlemania and she is never forgetting what Becky Lynch did to her at Summerslam.

#### King of the Ring First Round: Jinder Mahal vs. Kofi Kingston

Before the match, Xavier Woods and Kofi still can't talk about a potential match between the two of them. Veer, Shanky and

Woods are here too. Mahal takes him down to start and stomps away in the corner but Kofi hurricanranas him to the floor. The middle rope trust fall drops Mahal again and we take a break.

Back with Kofi hitting the SOS but landing on the back of his own head for a scary landing. Kofi is good to continue so Mahal hits a gutbuster for two before taking Kofi up top. That's broken up and Kofi's top rope splash to the back gets two. Kofi loads up Trouble in Paradise but has to deal with everyone brawling outside. The top rope ax handle misses though, allowing Mahal to hit the Khallas for the pin at 9:00.

**Rating:** C. I can see both sides of this, as while it is annoying to have Mahal win anything, a battle between the New Day members should be something that matters. Throwing them out there on a week's notice in a semifinal match would be a big waste so Mahal winning here was the right call. Assuming they don't do something crazy like having Mahal advance to the finals, this was their best move.

Becky Lynch promises to leave Crown Jewel with the title.

### Becky Lynch/Bianca Belair vs. Sasha Banks/Charlotte

Becky's entrance now has a huge 3D image of herself looking over her sunglasses to send terror into your dreams. It's a huge brawl before the bell and a bunch of referees come down to yell at everyone. Charlotte loads up the moonsault but gets broken up, with Belair tossing Banks onto the other two. Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville come out to yell as well and say the match is happening.

Back from a break and the bell rings so Charlotte and Banks can trade some standing switches. A wheelbarrow drops Banks but she kicks Charlotte in the face. Belair and Becky come in with Bianca working on the arm, but Banks doesn't seem happy to be coming back in. Becky avoids Belair's middle rope ax handle but Belair is right back with a suplex. Banks knocks

Belair down but Charlotte tags herself in as Becky tries the Disarm-Her. Charlotte yells at Becky to get out so Banks gives Charlotte the Backstabber. Belair comes back in to clean house, including on her own partner, so the referee throws it out at 3:39.

**Rating:** C-. This existed for the sake of being able to say it existed, which isn't quite what I had in mind when I saw it announced. That being said, it was looking like Charlotte was going to win a match over the three people fighting for a title next week so this could have been a lot more annoying. I'm over the partners who are about to fight each other trope, but we have another version of it for later tonight so I can't get that annoyed yet.

Post match Belair can't hit the KOD on Becky so Banks takes Belair down. The Manhandle Slam and Backstabber are both countered until Becky kicks Banks in the face and gets the Slam to leave her laying.

We recap the opening sequence.

The Usos are on the phone with Roman Reigns and tell him not to worry. Tonight, their job is to complete the mission.

### Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Doudrop vs. Natalya

Natalya slaps her in the face to start but a headlock doesn't get Natalya very far. Doudrop misses a backsplash though and gets caught in the abdominal stretch. That's broken up as well and Doudrop misses the Cannonball. Natalya's discus lariat gets two so she tries the Sharpshooter, which is countered into a small package to give Doudrop the pin at 3:04.

**Rating:** D+. It shouldn't be a celebration when they break three minutes but that is where we are with this thing. Doudrop beating Natalya to set up the match with Shayna Baszler isn't a bad idea, but it's kind of sad seeing Doudrop as the dancing woman already. You knew it was coming, but it

doesn't make things that much better.

John Morrison is meditating when Nikki Ash and Rhea Ripley come up. He's trying to get ready to expand his mind because there is a lot in there. They think that's cool but once they leave, they admit they have no idea what he's talking about. This is something WWE decided was worthy of time on this show.

Austin Theory photo bombs a warming up Big E.

Mustafa Ali yells at Mansoor, saying Mansoor only wants to dance and make friends. Ali has had his back but he should have told him the truth from day one: he is a loser and NOTHING. With Ali gone, Mansoor says he'll talk to him later but Ali comes back in and jumps him from behind.

### Big E./Drew McIntyre vs. Usos

Non-title. Big E. powers Jimmy into the corner without much effort to start and we get the non-New Day version of the Unicorn Stampede. Drew suplexes Jimmy for two but Big E. gets caught in the wrong corner so the Usos can make a wish. The chinlock goes on for a bit before Big E. makes the comeback. That's broken up as well and Big E. is sent into the steps as we take a break.

Back with Big E. still in trouble but suplexing his way out of the corner. That's enough for the hot tag to McIntyre for the house cleaning, including a spinebuster for two on Jimmy. The double superkick gets two on McIntyre but he's right back up with the jumping neckbreaker.

The Claymore is loaded up but Big E. tags himself in (as McIntyre did last week), only to get superkicked down for two. Jey misses the Superfly Splash but counters the Big Ending as well. Drew gets knocked off the apron though and now the Big Ending connects, only to have Drew break up the pin. The fight is on and Big E. is counted out at 15:12 as the brawl continues.



**Rating:** C+. Better match than the tag match with a similar story and the Reigns factor looming over everything helps, but I'm so sick of this tag team deal. It's one of WWE's favorites and they run it so frequently, as the idea of diminishing returns continues to be lost on this company. That being said, there was good action and they went with the smart finish so it could have been much worse.

Post match the Usos jump Big E. and McIntyre and load up the announcers' table. McIntyre (busted open) and Big E. fight back and get inside, where McIntyre hits the Claymore to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. There was some good stuff on here, but egads the bad things dragged it back down. I'm rarely a fan of setting up two shows at once, but they have already started on the main event of Survivor Series (which must be champion vs. champion, due to reasons of "well, that's what we do") without getting Crown Jewel out of the way first. They didn't officially add anything to the card tonight, though I think you can pencil in Ali vs. Mansoor, as you have been able to do for a few months now.

The biggest problem here though is the Queen's Crown. The four first round matches combined to be just over eight minutes combined, or less than any one of the men's first round matches. There is no hiding the fact that WWE does not care about the tournament and it makes me wonder why I'm supposed to care about it either. Even if the semifinals and finals are better, and they almost have to be, WWE has sunk the thing before it can get started. It's a shame that we waited this long for the thing and now have to see it take place under a regime that has such little interest.

There were some bright spots on the show (Ricochet vs. Woods was good, the Drew vs. Big E. build has gone as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and Theory looked like a star), but this was a rough sit as we move into one of the

weaker times of the year. The show is trying to do a lot of things at once and since WWE can barely single task most of the time, multitasking is completely lost on them. Not the worst show, but a rather frustrating one in a trend that is likely to continue.

### Results

Xavier Woods b. Ricochet – Rope walk elbow

Cedric Alexander/Shelton Benjamin b. Mustafa Ali/Mansoor – Michinoku Driver to Ali

Shayna Baszler b. Dana Brooke – Knee to the face

Omos b. Riddle – Chokebomb

Austin Theory b. Jeff Hardy – Rollup with jeans

Jinder Mahal b. Kofi Kingston – Khallas

Charlotte/Becky Lynch vs. Sasha Banks/Bianca Belair went to a no contest

Doudrop b. Natalya – Small package

Usos b. Big E./Drew McIntyre via countout

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# Smackdown – October 8, 2021: Tournaments Aren't That Awesome But They're Acceptable Enough

## Smackdown

Date: October 8, 2021

Location: SAP Center, San Jose, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

We're done with the Draft, though we still have a few weeks before we switch over to the new roster. Until then we have Crown Jewel in less than two weeks, which is likely to get a lot of the focus tonight. Since it's WWE, we also have a contract signing to deal with tonight. Let's get to it.

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

We open with the contract signing, with Bianca Belair in the ring, Sasha Banks on the announcers' table and Becky Lynch at her own table in the aisle. Becky doesn't think much of Belair, who she beat in 26 seconds and Banks, who looks like a disco ball. Banks thinks Becky is jealous because she's a bigger star than the two of them.

Belair doesn't want to hear it and just wants to get the contract signed. Becky gets her attention so Banks runs in to jump Belair, meaning the brawl is on. That just lets Belair put them both in the KOD but she can't flip them over. Instead she puts Banks onto the table and puts Becky through Banks and the table. The contract wasn't signed in all of the melee. Of every contract signing, at least this one was short.

Rey Mysterio says being King of the Ring is the second best thing in WWE (after being Universal Champion), but it would make him sick to see Sami Zayn as king.

### King of the Ring Tournament First Round: Rey Mysterio vs. Sami Zayn

Before the match, Sami tells Dominik Mysterio that Dominik is better than his dad. Sami misses a Helluva Kick to start but Sami grabs a powerbomb for two instead as Cole talks about how important the tournament is. Rey is right back by sending Sami outside and the flipping hurricanrana takes him down again. There's the top rope splash for two on Zayn, who is right back with a shoulder first whip into the post.

We take a break and come back with Dominik at ringside as Sami suplexes Rey into the corner. The Helluva Kick is countered though and Rey gets two off Code Red. A springboard hurricanrana gets the same but the 619 misses. Another Blue Thunder Bomb gets another two on Rey so Sami goes to pull off the turnbuckle pad. Dominik goes to put it back but Rey is sent into him, allowing Sami to grab a rollup for the pin at 9:47.

**Rating:** C+. There was an energy here that I wasn't expecting as both guys were working hard to make this better. Rey hasn't moved that well in a good while and Zayn did his thing as well. Good match, while also advancing their story and the tournament. That's a rather nifty use of about ten minutes.

Here are the brackets:

Sami Zayn

Cesaro

Finn Balor

Kofi Kingston

Jinder Mahal

Xavier Woods

Ricochet

Hit Row is coming.

Commentary is excited about the changes from the changes from the Draft.

We look at Seth Rollins invading Edge's house last week and messing with his stuff as Edge freaked out.

Rollins doesn't know why everyone is freaking out about what he did last week. He managed to beat Edge in Madison Square Garden without any cheating and then he went to Edge's home as promised. That being said, Rolling still hasn't gotten an answer to his challenge so he's going to find someone who can make it happen.

Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Zelina Vega vs. Toni Storm

First match in the history of the tournament. Storm goes with the power to start but Vega is back with the Thesz press and a bunch of right hands. The modified dragon sleeper has Vega in trouble but Storm fights up and cranks on the arm. There's a running hip attack in the corner to keep Vega down but she is back up to crotch Storm on top. Storm tries a backslide but gets reversed into a Code Red to give Vega the fast pin at 2:12.

Here are the brackets:

Zelina Vega

Liv Morgan

Carmella

Doudrop

Natalya

Dana Brooke  
Shayna Baszler

We look back at Roman Reigns' rough night last week, with Reigns being the #1 overall pick but having to deal with Brock Lesnar as well. Lesnar then announced that he was a free agent, much to Reigns' annoyance as he believe Paul Heyman is behind it.

Here is the Bloodline for a chat. Reigns likes being acknowledged but he wants to get to the point: did Paul Heyman set up Lesnar's free agent status? Heyman goes into a nearly begging rant about how he has nothing but loyalty Reigns. He may have been accused of a lot of things over the years, but never of being stupid. Wouldn't it make more sense to stretch this out until Crown Jewel and set up Reigns' strategy and then tell Lesnar about it? Heyman talks about how Reigns will conquer the Conqueror at Crown Jewel, but Reigns wants Heyman to tell Lesnar himself.

That means Heyman has to look into the camera and tell Lesnar what is going to happen. Heyman, with some more seriousness in his voice, talks about how Lesnar conquered the Undertaker at Wrestlemania, but now he has met his match. Reigns will retain the title, and that is a spoiler. Heyman drops to his knees before Reigns, who seems pleased. This was more awesome stuff from the best thing going in wrestling today.

Seth Rollins comes in to see Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville because he wants to know if Edge is going to be here tonight. Either way, Rollins will be in the ring at the end of the show for an answer. If the two of them see Edge first though, he asks them to return this photo of Edge and Beth Phoenix from their house.

Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

Carmella puts on her mask but Morgan takes her down and hammers away. The Code of Silence has Morgan in trouble so she

grabs the mask to escape. An enziguri sets up Oblivion for two with Carmella putting her foot on the rope for the escape. Back up and Carmella superkicks her down for the pin at 1:46. As much as I don't want to say it, I think it's time to give up on believing it's ever going to happen for Morgan. If you're losing to Carmella in less than two minutes, what kind of future do you have?

Mace says he isn't coming here to compete because that implies there is competition. All he sees is prey.

Here are Happy Corbin and Madcap Moss for Happy Talk. Before they can get too far, here is a ticked off Kevin Owens. Moss gets beaten up in the aisle and Owens goes inside to jump Corbin but the numbers game takes him down. Owens gets laid out again.

Naomi comes in to see the bosses and wants to know why she wasn't in the Queen's Crown Tournament but Sonya Deville cuts her off. Next week, Naomi is in the ring against...Sonya herself.

### King of the Ring Tournament First Round: Cesaro vs. Finn Balor

Cesaro grabs a headscissors on the mat to start but Balor is right back up. That just earns him a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker to give Cesaro two and there's a hard whip into the corner. Balor manages a quick double stomp to the chest though and Cesaro is tossed over the top. The big dive is countered into Swiss Death to give Cesaro two and we take a break.

Back with Balor knocking Cesaro down again and stomping away. Cesaro manages to start the uppercut train but Balor Sling Blades him back down. The Coup de Grace is cut off though and Cesaro adds a headbutt on top. The superplex gives Cesaro a delayed two and a Crossface has Balor in more trouble. Balor rolls him up to escape and the Swing is countered into a cradle for two more. Cesaro misses a charge into the post and there's the big flip dive to the floor. Back in and the

shotgun dropkick sets up the Coup de Grace for the pin on Cesaro at 9:43.

**Rating:** B-. I don't think it's any surprise that these two were going to have a good match. It helps that they got some time, just like Mysterio vs. Zayn. That's a bit better than the two women's matches tonight, which got about four minutes combined. It shows just how much of a difference that detail makes, but I don't think WWE cares that much these days.

We look back at the contract signing, which did not include any contracts being signed.

Becky Lynch goes on a rant about how she isn't respected around here but Sonya Deville says prove it by signing the contract. Becky signs to get us a third of the way to the match, though she throws the contract at Adam Pearce, hitting him low.

Here is Seth Rollins to call Edge out. Rollins says they can have any match Edge wants, anywhere they want. They can even have it Edge's living room with his wife and kids cheering him on. Rollins says Edge is disappointing everyone, from his fans to his family. He can't imagine how much this hurts Edge's daughters' hearts...and Edge arrives in the back (cutting it close with two minutes left in the show). Cue Edge to start the fight in a hurry and break the bar off of the chair. The Crossface is teased but Rollins elbows him to escape. Edge: "YOU! ME! HELL IN A CELL!" Rollins' jaw drops to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. I love a show that is quick and to the point and that's what we got here. They didn't bother trying to do anything more than hit the tournament stuff and advance or set up things for Crown Jewel. That's how you run an efficient show and it feels like to have a night that has such a focus. Good show here, though the women's matches left a good bit to be desired. Would it really hurt to give them five minutes each?



## Results

Sami Zayn b. Rey Mysterio – Rollup  
Zelina Vega b. Toni Storm – Code Red  
Carmella b. Liv Morgan – Superkick  
Finn Balor b. Cesaro – Coup de Grace

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# Monday Night Raw – October 4, 2021: It's Getting Drafty In Here

## Monday Night Raw

Date: October 4, 2021

Location: Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Jimmy Smith, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

It's time for the second half of the Draft and that could make for a huge night. These are the picks who were not made on Smackdown and the changes do not go into effect until October 22. On top of that though, we also have GOLDBERG making an appearance so you know things are special. Let's get to it.

[Here is the first night of the Draft if you need a recap.](#)

Commentary explains the Draft rules.

Here is Becky Lynch to get things going. Becky says it has been about a year and a half since she has been on this stage but she is ready to make some executives unhappy. The first Draft pick to Raw is....yeah of course it's her. Becky talks about how she never lost the Raw Women's Title and Charlotte can't stand the idea that she can't beat her. Maybe it's time to become Becky Two Belts again...and here is Charlotte to interrupt.

Charlotte reminds Becky that she took the Smackdown Women's Title from her before and she can do it again. Cue Bianca Belair to interrupt too, saying she has her own unfinished business. The two of them must feel threatened because they both took cheap shots at her on Smackdown. Neither of them are ready for her to become the EST of Raw because she goes here now. Charlotte: "That was really cute but SHH!"

The fans think Charlotte sucks so she mocks the WHAT chants. Belair: "You don't even go here anymore!" Becky can feel the disrespect and says she would fight Charlotte right now, but she has nothing left to prove. Maybe Charlotte and Belair should fight instead! Charlotte isn't interested in charity cases but here are Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville to make the match for later tonight. That's not all either, as we need to have some title matches, starting with this one.

Well first of all, it's time for the first round of the Draft.

Round One

Raw – Becky Lynch

Smackdown – Usos

Raw – Bobby Lashley

Smackdown – Sasha Banks

So Lynch is the only change, but seeing Paul Heyman's sigh of relief when the Usos stayed with Roman Reigns was great.

### US Title: Damian Priest vs. Jeff Hardy

Priest is defending and drops Hardy with a running shoulder to start. A kick to the face sends Priest outside but Hardy misses the clothesline off the apron. The running flip dive off the steps doesn't miss for Priest though and we take a break. Back with Priest kicking him in the head but not being able to hit the Reckoning. The Sling Blade sets up the Twist of Fate into the Swanton, but Priest reverses into a crucifix to retain at 6:50.

**Rating:** C. We didn't get to see much of this but what we got was good enough. Priest continues to rack up some pretty substantial wins and that is the best way to go. I'm not sure what is next for him, but mowing down one challenger after another is going to work. Just keep them coming and Priest looks like a bigger star every time. It has worked for years and it can work for him too.

Post match Hardy says he loves the fans, even when he has been around for a long time. There have been good and bad times for him and maybe it is time to see his new ego. That's in a few weeks...but here is Austin Theory to interrupt. Theory doesn't mean any disrespect and is honored to be here with a legend. He doesn't mean to fanboy and asks if they can take a selfie. Hardy is glad to...and then gets clotheslined down. A TKO onto the knee leaves Hardy laying and Theory poses next to him on the mat for another selfie. Works for me, as this was one of the more effective debuts in a while on this show.

Riddle is glad Randy Orton is back because it is time for them

to get some revenge on AJ Styles/Omos. Orton is even looking great, though Riddle isn't sure if that is a snake in his pocket. Orton calms him down and talks about how they are facing Styles and Omos at Crown Jewel, but that leaves him free tonight. How about he finally faces Omos one on one? Riddle seems scared by the idea.

Time for round two.

### Round Two

Raw – Seth Rollins

Smackdown – King Nakamura/Rick Boogs

Raw – Damian Priest

Smackdown – Sheamus

As long as he isn't a messiah again, Rollins to Raw is fine.

### Shayna Baszler vs. Dana Brooke

Brooke goes after the arm in the corner to start but gets pulled into a cross armbreaker. That doesn't work so it's the Kirifuda Clutch to end Brooke at 1:21.

Post match Shayna goes after Brooke's arm again but Doudrop dances out for the save. Baszler hits her from behind but the shot doesn't drop Doudrop

Paul Heyman is very happy to have the Usos on Smackdown, because he is the warden of the Uso Penitentiary. He is asked if that is how Heyman maintained Brock Lesnar's free agent status and everything gets serious, with the Usos staring at him.

### Mansoor/Mustafa Ali vs. Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza

Carrillo splashes Mansoor into the corner to start but gets caught in a reverse DDT. It's off to Ali, who gets punched in the face by Garza. That lets Garza TAKE OFF HIS PANTS but Ali is back with a suplex. Carrillo and Mansoor go to the floor and the distraction lets Carrillo post Ali for the pin at

1:45.

Time for round 3.

### Round Three

Raw – AJ Styles/Omos

Smackdown – Shayna Baszler

Raw – Kevin Owens

Smackdown – Xia Li

Owens doesn't seem to mean anything anymore, but Li is an interesting change, even if it probably means the end of Tian Sha.

Here is Big E. for a chat. He calls Raw his show and talks about how nice it was to be back with New Day last week. On top of that though, he had a physically grueling match with Bobby Lashley but now he is the rightful WWE Champion. Before he could even breathe though, he already had his next challenger in the form of Drew McIntyre. Big E. wants him out here right now so here is McIntyre in person. McIntyre says he's going to Smackdown but now he has unfinished business.

Big E. deserves to be the WWE Champion (pause for the YOU DESERVE IT chants) but there is one person who hasn't congratulated him yet. As much as Big E. deserves it though, he did cash in on an injured champion. Then again, Bobby Lashley helped cause the same thing happen to McIntyre and since no one likes Lashley, maybe Big E. did the world a favor. McIntyre gets to the point and challenges Big E. for the title.

Cue Dolph Ziggler and Robert Roode, with the former talking about how he gave both Big E. and McIntyre their big break. We see some clips of Ziggler doing just that and now he wants a thank you. Big E. thinks Ziggler has upgraded with Roode, who doesn't like the implications. Roode: "They call you Big E. Well they call me Big Bob!" Big E.: "No one, not one person, has ever called you that." Ziggler just wants his thank you

bug the tag match is made instead.

### Big E./Drew McIntyre vs. Dolph Ziggler/Robert Roode

McIntyre throws Ziggler around to start and hands it off to E. for the apron splash. Roode comes in and gets dropped by McIntyre's neckbreaker but it's back to Ziggler for a dropkick on E. A middle rope knee misses for Roode though and McIntyre comes back in for the big boot. Everything breaks down and it's a superkick to put McIntyre down on the floor as we take a break.

Back with McIntyre fighting out of a chinlock and dropping Roode with the Glasgow Kiss. Big E. gets the tag for some suplexes as everything breaks down. The Zig Zag hits Big E. and McIntyre has to make a save. Roode knocks McIntyre to the floor but dives into an overhead belly to belly. The Big Ending is loaded up but McIntyre tags himself in and hits the Claymore for the pin at 10:20.

**Rating:** C. I'm sure it had been a few weeks since they had dusted off the idea of two people facing each other teaming together. There isn't much of a secret in where the feud is going and given how little time they have to set something up, this is about as good as they could do. McIntyre vs. Big E. will be fine and it's always fun seeing Ziggler get beaten up.

Post match Big E. gives Roode the Big Ending and says he and McIntyre can do it at Crown Jewel. That works for McIntyre.

Reggie has been told that Adam Pearce wants to talk to him about the Draft but that's not the case. The usual gang of idiots, plus Jaxson Ryker and the Viking Raiders go after the title but escapology ensues. Apollo Crews and Commander Azeez cut him off...but they let him go. The chase continues.

Here is Kevin Owens for a chat but Akira Tozawa interrupts. Tozawa doesn't want to fight Owens, because he wants the 24/7 Title. Owens gives him a Stunner instead.

We needs more Draft picks!

#### Round Four

Raw – Street Profits

Smackdown – Viking Raiders

Raw – Finn Balor

Smackdown – Ricochet

As much as I love Ricochet, it's not like there is any reason to believe this is going to change anything. Balor to Raw could be good though.

#### Women's Tag Team Titles: Rhea Ripley/Nikki Ash vs. Tamina/Natalya

Tamina/Natalya are defending. Before the match, Nikki promises BSK to anyone who comes after them. BSK would mean Boom, Smash, Kapow, because of course they do. Natalya takes Nikki into the corner to start and it's off to Tamina to run Nikki over. Nikki reverses into a sleeper but can't get over to Ripley.

Instead it's a superkick for two but Nikki slips out of a slam and brings Ripley in. A headbutt sets up a running basement dropkick to drop Natalya, who avoids a charge in the corner. Natalya misses her own basement dropkick though and Ripley gets two off a northern lights suplex. Nikki drops Natalya on the floor and it's the Riptide to Tamina. A splash off of Ripley's shoulders gives Nikki the pin at 3:23.

**Rating:** C-. I'd like to believe that this will end the feud but you never can tell around here. Ripley and Ash are fine enough for the titles but they need someone else to fight for them. You can only get so far with the same teams, but that is not something WWE has ever learned with these titles. At least they kept it short and to the point here.

We have a round five.

## Round Five

Raw – Karrion Kross

Smackdown – Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza

Raw – Alexa Bliss

Smackdown – Cesaro

Well that changes...pretty much nothing, especially if Bliss is going to be gone for awhile.

Here is Goldberg for a chat. Goldberg doesn't like Bobby Lashley saying that attacking Goldberg's son was an accident. It was intentional, so Goldberg wants him in this ring so he can intentionally break Lashley's neck. Cue Lashley to say that it was an accident and he isn't messing up his suit.

Lashley is willing to give Goldberg the match at Crown Jewel, and we'll make it no holds barred. Goldberg thanks Lashley and promises to apologize to his kids, because Lashley is next and dead. Lashley cuts off the music and says Gage Goldberg can come try it again, but this time it won't be an accident. Cue Shelton Benjamin and Cedric Alexander, who are taken out in a hurry.

Seth Rollins is so happy to be here that is is singing, but don't mention Edge. He'll deal with that on Smackdown.

## New Day vs. Cedric Alexander/Shelton Benjamin

Alexander and Benjamin are beaten up but Shelton manages to take Kofi into the corner to start. That just earns him a tornado DDT and it's already off to Woods to pick up the pace. Everything breaks down and Kofi's standing double stomp hits Shelton on the floor. The rope walk elbow gives Woods the pin on Alexander at 2:25. Woods: "CROWN ME! CROWN ME! CROWN ME!!!"

Post match here are the Street Profits to congratulate New Day on their new movie. After Ford says no spoilers, they make it clear that they want the smoke. Kofi has a drink from the cup and dancing ensues.



Video on Finn Balor.

### Randy Orton vs. Omos

Well in theory, as Omos has not officially accepted the match yet. Cue AJ Styles and Omos, with the former calling Riddle Gilligan and saying Riddle doesn't have the brain cells to keep the titles. Omos is ready to fight so Orton takes out Styles, then does it again with an RK0. That's enough for Orton and there is no match.

One more round.

### Round Six

Raw – Carmella

Smackdown – Ridge Holland

Raw – Gable Steveson

Smackdown – Sami Zayn

Well that's eventful. It says a lot when Sami Zayn is possibly the least interesting pick. And yes, Saxton says Stevenson instead of Steveson.

Steveson's family is happy with the pick, though he doesn't say anything.

Here are all of the picks.

### Raw

Round One – Becky Lynch

Round One – Bobby Lashley

Round Two – Seth Rollins

Round Two – Damian Priest

Round Three – AJ Styles/Omos

Round Three – Kevin Owens

Round Four – Street Profits

Round Four – Finn Balor

Round Five – Karrion Kross

Round Five – Alexa Bliss

Round Six – Carmella

Round Six – Gable Steveson

### Smackdown

Round One – Usos

Round One – Sasha Banks

Round Two – King Nakamura/Rick Boogs

Round Two – Sheamus

Round Three – Shayna Baszler

Round Three – Xia Li

Round Four – Viking Raiders

Round Four – Ricochet

Round Five – Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza

Round Five – Cesaro

Round Six – Ridge Holland

Round Six – Sami Zayn

### Charlotte vs. Bianca Belair

Non-title and Becky Lynch joins commentary. Becky reads a poem about being able to beat Sasha Banks as Charlotte takes Belair down with a headscissors. Belair sends her into the corner though and then flips over Charlotte, setting up a dropkick. Charlotte is sent to the apron where she hits Belair in the face but can't quite suplex her into the post. Instead they head to the floor, where Charlotte sends her into the timekeeper's area as we take a break.

Back with Belair getting two off the delayed suplex. Saxton: "That could be you Becky Lynch!" Becky: "YEAH KICKING OUT! LIKE I DID BEFORE, BYRON SAXTON!" Well that was feisty. Charlotte is right back with a powerbomb for two but Natural Selection is blocked. The KOD is escaped as well but Charlotte is right back with a spear for two.

Belair runs Charlotte over again but gets caught on top for another crash. The double moonsault gives Charlotte two but the Figure Four is countered into a small package to give

Belair two. The KOD (with Charlotte landing on her shoulder) gets two, with Becky pulling Belair out for the DQ at 13:10.

**Rating:** B-. It was good stuff (save for the kind of messy landing on the KOD) and the ending was the right way to go. You don't want to have either of them take a clean fall in this one so the ending was the best choice they had. Charlotte leaving unscathed is fine too, as it isn't like she has anything going on at the moment. Solid main event, with neither looking weak in the end.

Post match it's the Manhandle Slam to Belair but Sasha Banks comes in to take out Becky and Belair. Banks poses to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. I never know how to grade something like this as there is so much going on that it is hard to keep track of everything. Above all else, it was certainly an eventful show as we find out where the shows are going in just a few weeks while also setting up Crown Jewel. I'm wanting to see where things are going, and hopefully that includes some more short matches. They make the show feel like it is going so much faster and that is a great thing. You can put in some longer matches here and there, but you need to keep the attention up on the longer shows. Good enough show, but slowing down will help.

### Results

Damian Priest b. Jeff Hardy – Crucifix

Shayna Baszler b. Dana Brooke – Kirifuda Clutch

Humberto Carrillo/Angel Garza b. Mansoor/Mustafa Ali – Carrillo sent Ali into the post

Big E./Drew McIntyre b. Robert Roode/Dolph Ziggler – Claymore to Ziggler

Nikki Ash/Rhea Ripley b. Natalya/Tamina – Splash to Tamina

New Day b. Cedric Alexander/Shelton Benjamin – Rope walk elbow to Alexander

Bianca Belair b. Charlotte via DQ when Becky Lynch interfered

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## **WWE House Show – October 3, 2021: Welcome Home (Again)**

It was time to go back to the arena last night as I took in the WWE house show at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky. This was another Supershow, featuring more or less a WWE all star card. They did one of these back in Louisville in July and it was a lot of fun, so hopefully they can make it work here too. Let's get to it.

Before anything else, I needed a ticket so I went to stand inline. As I was waiting, a guy in a John Cena shirt came up to me.

Guy: "Are you getting tickets?"

Yeah....

Guy: "Want these two free ones?"

First row off the floor. I mean...if that's all you have, I guess they'll do.

I didn't catch the guy's name but in the one in a quadrillion chance he

sees this, thank you very much (again) as that was one of the nicest things anyone has done for me in a long time.

The arena was far from full, though Rupp Arena is one of the biggest in the country with over 20,000 capacity. Still though, there couldn't have been more than a few thousand in the building.

### 1. Intercontinental Title: King Nakamura vs. Seth Rollins

Nakamura had Rick Boogs with him and that is an AWESOME entrance live, as the guitar sounds great and Nakamura seems rejuvenated since this whole thing started. Rollins also feels far, far better suited to this than the disastrous Monday Night Messiah, as he is reveling in the goofy heel shtick. The fans are buying it too as Rollins got an awesome reaction.

This was a very fun match as you could tell they were having a good time. They started slowly with Nakamura having to chase Rollins, and even stealing his coat to freak him out. Rollins made it clear that he did not like booing and I'm sure you can guess how that went. Nakamura eventually got more serious, leading to this exchange:

Nakamura: "COME ON!"

Rollins: "NO!"

Repeat three times.

Rollins: "NO!"

Nakamura: "PLEASE!"

They went into the match you would expect them to have until Rollins loaded up the Stomp. Boogs played some guitar for a distraction though and Nakamura hit Kinshasa to retain at 15:32. This was very fun and one of the best things all night long, as two people who know what they are doing got to do their own thing.

### 2. Karrion Kross vs. John Morrison

Morrison feels like a star, even with the Drip Stick in the entrance. Kross....there's no way around it: the gear looks stupid. He had his big

entrance with the cool Titantron video, but he looked so goofy standing in front of the thing. Anyway, Kross told us that it was Morrison's birthday and started singing before jumping Morrison to start. Kross beat on him for a bit until Morrison fought back, including blasting him with the drip stick in the corner. Starship Pain missed though and the Krossjacket finished Morrison at 8:08. D+. Post match, Kross asked what was in the Drip Stick and then chased Morrison away. This didn't work.

Riddle was in the back and talked about how happy he was to be in Lexington, even with Randy Orton still taking time off. AJ Styles and Omos jumped him, saying they would beat up New Day tonight and then come after the Tag Team Titles.

### 3. Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

Carmella did the usual "I'm hot and you're not", speaking to both the crowd and Morgan. She also wore her mask, which was quite the odd visual. A fan called Carmella a chicken so she danced around like a chicken and then ran away from Morgan for a bit. The match was very kicky/punchy/chokey and didn't exactly do either of them many favors. Morgan ripped off the mask and won with Oblivion at 6:35. D+. Almost all of the positives come from Carmella being a ball of charisma, which has always been the case. Morgan still feels like a breakout star waiting to happen, but that has been the case for a long time now.

### 4. WWE Title: Big E. vs. Bobby Lashley

This was a rather simple idea: take two big muscle guys and have them beat each other up for a little while. Big E. wasn't quite serious to start as Lashley shouldered him into a near Matrix, with Big E. fighting to keep his balance and then applauding himself. Lashley didn't like that and jumped him, only to hurt his knee in the process. This went on for a good while, with the fans getting pulled into things until Lashley jumped Big E. to take over. Eventually Lashley got the Hurt Lock but Big E. reversed into the Big Ending to retain at 10:10. C. Big E. has more charisma than he knows what to do with and it's bizarre to see him with the title.

In one of my favorite things about any show, Big E. signed autographs and

took pictures around ringside. There were two girls who looked to be about 10-12 years old who got some autographs and it was the greatest thing that had ever happened to them. I know WWE gets a lot of flack and complaints at times, but there is something so great about seeing fans having such genuine joy about seeing one of their favorites up close and personal. You can't fake that kind of thing and I love seeing it every time.

Intermission.

#### 5. AJ Styles/Omos vs. New Day

I've seen Omos a few times now and the visual is right up there with Great Khali and Andre. As you might expect, New Day had a crazy energetic entrance, with Woods giving his vest to a fan at ringside with a Consequences Creed shirt. After his entrance, Woods shouted "THAT'S MY NEPHEW!" for an explanation. New Day danced to AJ's music for a funny bit, sending AJ into a rant about how the Kentucky Wildcats got lucky against the Florida Gators the previous day and said he couldn't wait until they played Georgia (it's going to be painful). This match featured a lot of dancing, gyrating and pelvic thrusting until Omos came in and wrecked Kingston. Everything broke down and Omos was sent to the floor, leaving Woods to roll AJ up at 10:39. C. This wasn't much and I was kind of disappointed in the whole thing.

Post match AJ yelled but Riddle came in with an RKO. Riddle left and AJ splashed Riddle's hat.

#### 6. Smackdown Women's Title: Becky Lynch vs. Bianca Belair

Belair felt like a star during the entrance and the fans loved seeing her. Becky got a star pop though and was back in the classic gear that she wore in the Wrestlemania main event. The match was good enough and they went back and forth like you might have expected. It wasn't a classic or anything but it was good enough for what it was. Becky reversed the KOD into a rollup with feet on the ropes to retain at 11:11. C+. Of note, Belair limped to the back (though she did take some pictures with fans) despite Becky not working on her leg. That could be something in the future and hopefully she is fine.

## 7. Finn Balor/Street Profits vs. Bloodline

The biggest part here was the entrances, as Balor felt like a star, the Street Profits were pure energy (the Kentucky Wildcats banner they brought to the ring, which Balor wore like a cape while running around in a circle, helped), and then Reigns felt like the biggest star going today. This was a pretty long but completely watchable six man which felt like a main event. Ford worked on the arm for a bit while shouting about how good it felt.

Eventually Dawkins got beaten down in the corner and the fans started cheering for Roman. Reigns did a GREAT job of working the apron and started listening to the fans, even after he knocked the Kentucky banner down. Reigns came in to a huge pop, beat down Dawkins for a bit, and then left, where the fans started booing him again. Finally the hot tag got Dawkins out of trouble and Ford and Balor both came in to do their big stuff. Ford got knocked off the top though and the spear gave Reigns the pin at 16:15. B-. Reigns is an absolute star and that's what mattered here.

Post match, Reigns allowed the fans to acknowledge him to end the night.

**Overall Rating:** C+. This was what you would want out of a house show: a bunch of stars having mostly good matches. It's not going to be anything great, but you can get a much more personal feeling from the wrestlers as they are allowed to play to/interact with the crowd that much more. It was a fun night and I'd absolutely go again, though I do kind of miss house shows being about giving underused wrestlers ring time. The all star thing makes far more sense, but an undercard six man can be a lot of fun too.

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# Smackdown – October 1, 2021 (2021 Draft Night One): Moving On Up/Down

## Smackdown

Date: October 1, 2021

Location: Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Pat McAfee, Michael Cole

It's a big night as we are starting this year's Draft. That means we are going to be seeing a bunch of names moved from show to show, though it is not clear if NXT will be included as well. That could make for some interesting changes, but they might not all be for the best. Let's get to it.

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

Commentary welcomes us to the show and sets up a few rules: half of the roster will be eligible for drafting tonight and half on Raw, but the rosters will not officially change until October 22, the night after Crown Jewel.

We waste no time as Sonya Deville and Adam Pearce are here to announce the first round picks:

## Round 1

Smackdown: Roman Reigns

Raw: Big E.

Smackdown: Charlotte

Raw: Bianca Belair

Here are Roman Reigns and Paul Heyman for a chat, but first we look at a package on Reigns vs. Finn Balor from Extreme Rules. Reigns' shirt now says We The Ones and he demands to be acknowledged, which the fans are VERY interested in doing. Heyman says that's not good enough and talks about how the Demon is no longer undefeated.

Reigns performed an exorcism, and now he is moving on to Crown Jewel, which will not be taking place in Suplex City. That's because Brock Lesnar will be running into the Suplexorcist and be smashed...but here is Lesnar in person. We get a long staredown and then the brawl is on, with Lesnar clearing Reigns out. The Usos come in and get dropped with F5's, sending Reigns and Heyman away.

Charlotte isn't surprised that she was brought over to Smackdown because Fox knows star power when she sees it.

### Happy Corbin vs. Kevin Owens

Earlier today, Corbin introduces his new happy friend, Madcap Moss (that's not bad). Owens clotheslines him to the floor to start but it's too early for a dive. Moss trips Owens up though and it's a lot of laughter to send us to a break. Back with Owens making the comeback but the Stunner is countered into a rollup for two. Corbin plants Owens with Deep Six for two but Owens knocks him into the corner for the Cannonball. They head outside where Corbin hits End of Days (Cole: "Or should we call it Happy Days?") and another version connects inside for the pin at 7:28.

**Rating:** C. It was a good enough power brawl but the rise of Happy Corbin continues to be one of the more entertaining things in all of WWE. No it might not be great or brilliant, but dang I'm having a good time with the thing. Throw in Moss getting something to do again and it's another bonus.

We look back at Sasha Banks returning at Extreme Rules and costing Bianca Belair a shot at the Smackdown Women's Title.

It's time for round 2:

## **Round 2**

Smackdown – Drew McIntyre

Raw – RKBro

Smackdown – Kofi Kingston/Xavier Woods

Raw – Edge

So basically, Edge was traded for New Day and Drew McIntyre. I've heard worse deals....I think.

Here is Drew McIntyre to say that he had a great time on Raw but he has some unfinished business. There is a cloud hanging over Smackdown and it is time for McIntyre to break it up. With a point of Angela, McIntyre says he wants the Universal Title.

Here is Edge for a chat. After soaking in some loud cheers, Edge talks about how he is the only person here who was on the first Smackdown. Now though, he has been sent to Raw, which he sees as a challenge. Speaking of a challenge, we have Seth Rollins, who attacked him in Madison Square Garden three weeks ago and took him out again. Edge is on his way to 100%, and wants Rollins to come out here and make him saw Rollins is better.

Cue a laughing Rollins on the Titantron. Rollins is rather happy to be here...because he's at Edge's house. Edge storms to the back as Rollins lets himself inside and asks for Beth (Phoenix, Edge's wife). Rollins helps himself to an apple and orange juice, while admiring Edge's kids' backpacks. As Rollins has a seat in the library, we cut to Edge frantically calling Beth and telling her to go to her brother's (and ignore the groceries).

## **Carmella vs. Liv Morgan**

Extreme Rules Kickoff Show rematch. Liv knocks her to the floor before the bell but Carmella says hang on a second. She

has a team of people put a mask on her, then goes back inside to beat Morgan up, including an X Factor. No match, as I try to figure out what the point of that was.

Time for Round 3:

### **Round 3**

Smackdown: Happy Corbin/Madcap Moss

Raw: Rhea Ripley/Nikki Ash

Smackdown: Hit Row

Raw: Keith "Bearcat" Lee

Hit Row is awesome in NXT. It's going to be sad to see their immediate demise on Fridays.

### **New Day/Street Profits vs. Alpha Academy/Dolph Ziggler/Bobby Roode**

Ziggler and Kingston start things off (as their VERY longstanding rivalry continues) with Kofi hitting a jumping back elbow for an early two. It's Ziggler being taken into the corner for the ax handle from Ford (still with the taped ribs). Gable comes in for an armdrag and sunset flip to Ford, setting up the ankle lock. That's broken up in a hurry and Ford knocks all of the villains off the apron. Ford's dive off the apron is cut off by Otis, who sends him hard into the barricade.

We take a break and come back with Gable countering Ford's sunset flip into a northern lights suplex for two (that was sweet). Ford manages to get in a shot to Gable though and the hot tag brings in Dawkins to clean house. Everything breaks down, with Dawkins hitting his double underhook neckbreaker for two. Otis runs everyone over but gets sent outside, leaving Roode to hit a spinebuster for two on Dawkins. New Day is right back in though and Daybreak finishes Roode at 10:09.

**Rating:** C+. It was an energetic match and that's about all you can ask for from something like this. Eight wrestlers with ten

minutes between them and a commercial thrown in is not going to be enough to let everyone get some time and that was the case here. What we saw was fun and Ford got A LOT of the focus, but we didn't get to see very much.

Xavier Woods did some stuff with the Boys and Girls Club. Jenga was involved.

And now the final round:

#### **Round 4**

Smackdown – Naomi

Raw – Rey Mysterio/Dominik

Smackdown – Jeff Hardy

Raw – Austin Theory

Theory is interesting. Dominik isn't.

Here are the final picks:

#### **To Smackdown:**

Round 1 – Roman Reigns

Round 1 – Charlotte

Round 2 – Drew McIntyre

Round 2 – Kofi Kingston/Xavier Woods

Round 3 – Happy Corbin/Madcap Moss

Round 3 – Hit Row

Round 4 – Naomi

Round 4 – Jeff Hardy

#### **To Raw:**

Round 1 – Big E.

Round 1 – Bianca Belair

Round 2 – RKBro

Round 2 – Edge

Round 3 – Rhea Ripley/Nikki Ash

Round 3 – Keith "Bearcat" Lee

Round 4 – Rey Mysterio/Dominik

Round 4 – Austin Theory

Jeff Hardy is in the back for an interview, but Brock Lesnar interrupts. He dismisses Hardy and Kayla Braxton to announce that he is officially a free agent because of Paul Heyman. Therefore, he can do whatever he wants to do. Mic drop.

We go to the Bloodline's dressing room, where Paul Heyman is rather nervous. Roman Reigns asks if he and Heyman are good friends, with Heyman saying of course they are. Reigns says if they are friends, he needs to make sure that the Usos are drafted to Smackdown. Heyman says he's the wise man but Reigns seems to laugh it off. Reigns: "YOU'RE ONLY THE WISE MAN WHEN I SAY YOU'RE THE WISE MAN!"

Reigns mocks the idea of sticking to the plan, and orders Heyman to go to Raw and make sure the Usos stay on Smackdown. Heyman thanks Reigns and leaves in a hurry. Reigns sends the Usos to Raw to make sure this gets done. If Heyman fails, leave him for dead. Reigns turning into a near Mafia boss is great stuff.

### Bianca Belair vs. Sasha Banks

Becky Lynch comes out for commentary as Banks grinds away on a headlock to start. A running hurricanrana drops Belair again as Becky talks about how unfair the Crown Jewel triple threat will be. Belair sticks the landing on a monkey flip and sends Banks into the corner as Becky rants about Banks interfering on Sunday. Banks' crossbody is countered into a gorilla press drop (Becky: "I do CrossFit too!") but Banks escapes the KOD. A HARD running forearm sends Banks outside and we take a break.

Back with Banks hitting a top rope Meteora for two. Belair isn't having that and hits a double chickenwing slam, followed by a delayed vertical suplex for two of her own. Banks catches her on top and a tornado DDT drops Belair for another near fall. The frog splash gets two more but Belair fights up. That's enough for Becky to trip her up though and Banks grabs

a rollup for the pin at 13:45.

**Rating:** B-. These two still have great chemistry together and that is likely always going to be the case. The Becky interference was fine and it's not like Belair lost clean. There is a very real chance that Belair leaves Crown Jewel with the title anyway so everything until then is just kind of filling in time.

Post match, here is Charlotte to take out Banks and Belair, setting up the dueling title pose with Becky to end the show (and setting up Survivor Series). I'm fully convinced they're just trolling with Charlotte these days and that makes things a lot easier to take.

**Overall Rating:** C+. These shows are always weird to grade. They aren't about wrestling whatsoever (as they shouldn't be) but you also can't really know what things are going to look like until we get done with Raw (and apparently Crown Jewel). There were enough moves that made me interested to make it work though so I'll take what I can get. Add in Reigns seemingly at the brink with Heyman and it was an enjoyable enough show, with some pretty important moves thrown in.

### Results

Happy Corbin b. Kevin Owens – End of Days

New Day/Street Profits b. Bobby Roode/Dolph Ziggler/Alpha Academy – Daybreak to Roode

Sasha Banks b. Bianca Belair – Rollup

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# Extreme Rules 2021: They've Still Got (A Lot Of) It

## Extreme Rules 2021

Date: September 26, 2021

Location: Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee, Jimmy Smith, Corey Graves, Byron Saxton

It's the night they go extreme without remembering to go extreme. This year's edition features six matches with one match having any kind of extreme stipulation. The fact that they have been hyping up the Draft and Crown Jewel at the same time doesn't exactly make this show feel important. Let's get to it.

## Kickoff Show: Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

This was moved up from the main card and we hear about how Carmella's face pays the bills. It separates her from people like Liv, who should be ashamed of herself. Carmella: "I'm hot and you're not." As the Spanish commentary is on in full, Morgan jumps her before the bell and the fight is on, unlike the Spanish commentary anymore. Carmella avoids a charge to the floor and kicks Morgan in the face for two. The Bronco



Buster (McAfee: "I'm gonna bust your sternum with my a\*\*!") hits Morgan, allowing Carmella to shout that she is hot and Morgan isn't.

We hit the chinlock and the Spanish commentary is back. Carmella gets two off a faceplant but Morgan is back up with a faceplant and a running knee in the corner. A double stomp in the corner gets two and it's off to an exchange of rollups. Morgan is back up with a Codebreaker for two more but Carmella kicks her to the floor. This time Morgan kicks her face first into the announcers' table, setting up Oblivion for the pin at 7:49.

**Rating:** D+. Well that certainly was a TV level match that they added to the pay per view. I'm glad to see Morgan get a win but when you go 1-1 against Carmella and Zelina Vega over the course of 24 hours, your career might already be in trouble. Morgan is stuck in the bottom of the division at the moment and until that changes, none of this matters.

The opening video talks about how Extreme rules in this kingdom and looks at the rest of the card. So the Kingdom is one match on the card?

#### New Day vs. Bobby Lashley/AJ Styles/Omos

Bonus match for the sake of getting THE WWE CHAMPION on the show. The commentary now sounds like the French version as WWE continues to find new ways to look lame. AJ takes Woods down into a very early Calf Crusher so it's off to Kofi Kingston as commentary has finally gotten better. With that going nowhere, Big E. comes in instead and gets to face Lashley, who runs him over.

Back up and Big E. takes him into the corner for the Unicorn Stampede but everything breaks down for a big staredown on the floor. Back in and Lashley launches Kofi into the wrong corner so Omos can take over on him. A delayed suplex sets up a chinlock from AJ but Kofi fights his way out. That's not

enough for a hot tag though as Lashley takes out the rest of New Day, setting up a lifting Downward Spiral for two on Kofi.

Kingston spins out of the Dominator and slips out of the running powerslam, allowing the hot tag off to Woods. An enziguri sets up a tornado DDT for two on Lashley but Woods gets planted right back down. Back up and Woods shoves him off the top, setting up a missile dropkick. The double tag brings in Big E. to face AJ, with the latter getting suplexed over and over. AJ manages to get in a shot of his own for the near fall but the Midnight Hour gets two with Lashley making the save.

Lashley hits a quick spinning Dominator for two but Kofi is back up to knock Lashley outside. Big E. launches Kofi onto Omos, who chops him out of the air. Back in and Lashley runs Big E. over and loads up the spear but AJ tags himself in. Lashley tags himself back in as AJ misses the Phenomenal Forearm. A spear hits AJ by mistake and the Big Ending finishes Lashley at 18:15.

**Rating:** B+. They had me worried that Big E. was going to take the fall here but they did a nice job of letting him get the big win. Big E. can get his next opponent in the Draft so this was a good way to use him. I know New Day has been around for a long time but the fans still react to them and they can put on a good match like this one. Solid opener here with the fans still hot, so good choice to start things off well.

#### Smackdown Tag Team Titles: Usos vs. Street Profits

The Profits are challenging and McAfee makes fun of the commentary issues during their entrances. Montez Ford has taped ribs so Angelo Dawkins takes Jimmy into the corner to start. A dropkick staggers Jimmy and Dawkins runs him over, setting up a pair of dropkicks to put the champs on the floor. Back in and a kick to the ribs puts Ford in trouble and the Usos drop him ribs first onto the top. The tape is ripped off

and a belly to back suplex has Ford in even worse shape.

We get in a tug of war with Ford reaching for the tag but he has to send Jey into the post instead. The hot tag brings in Dawkins to clean house, including the spinning splashes in the corner. The Usos send Dawkins to the floor but their dives are both blocked. The fans want tables but instead they get a superplex into the double arm twisting neckbreaker for two on Jimmy. The Doomsday Blockbuster gives Ford the same but it's back to Jey for the running Umaga Attack in the corner.

Ford makes a blind tag though and it's the Anointment into the Cash Out, which hits Jey's knees for two. The ribs give out on another Doomsday Blockbuster attempt and Jey hits the Superfly Splash for a very close two on Dawkins. Everything breaks down again and Ford hits a huge dive onto everyone outside. Dawkins gets taken down though and it's a kick to the ribs into the double Superfly Splash to retain at 13:45.

**Rating:** B. Another pretty awesome match here with the story of Ford's ribs carrying things. They had me believing that the title change was taking place more than once here so they did a nice job of building the drama. The Profits are made men in the tag division at this point, though splitting them up to let Ford go on his own wouldn't stun me. Either way, heck of a match here as the hot start continues.

Bobby Lashley wants his WWE Title back.

We recap Alexa Bliss vs. Charlotte. Bliss wants to play with Charlotte and got her a doll of her own. Charlotte doesn't play with dolls, sending Bliss into a rant about how she has an identity, unlike Charlotte when she doesn't have a title.

Raw Women's Title: Alexa Bliss vs. Charlotte

Hometown girl Bliss is challenging and puts Lillie on the post. Charlotte takes it outside to start and then throws Bliss back inside for some face rams into the mat. A tilt-a-

whirl backbreaker gets two on Bliss and it's time to crank on both arms. An inverted Gory Stretch has Bliss in even more trouble but she winds up in an electric chair. That means a hurricanrana can send Charlotte face first into the corner and things slow down a bit.

They head outside again with Bliss being sent hard into the barricade, giving Charlotte two back inside. The moonsault misses so Charlotte hits a standing version for two (ala Andrade), followed by a missed Natural Selection. They fight over some pinfall reversals until Bliss gets powerbombed for two. Bliss is back up with a heck of a Code Red for two but Twisted Bliss missed.

The Figure Eight is countered into a small package for two, followed by a hard DDT for the same with Charlotte putting her foot on the rope. With nothing else working, Charlotte throws Lillie at Bliss and hits a big boot. Bliss gets sent shoulder....close to the post, setting up Natural Selection to retain at 11:27.

**Rating:** C+. This was far better because they didn't do a bunch of stupid stuff. It isn't a complicated idea and they made it work here. They had an intense match and didn't do anything dumb. Charlotte winning makes sense in Bliss' hometown, because you don't want anyone getting too popular around here. That's just not how WWE does things.

Post match Charlotte rips up Lillie, sending Bliss into a rage. The beatdown is on but since it's Charlotte, she beats Bliss up again and sends her over the announcers' table to leave. Bliss snaps and rips the top off the commentary table before going back inside to pick up the pieces of Lillie. A lot of emotional distress ensues.

Paul Heyman is on the phone when Kayla Braxton puts the microphone in his face. Heyman gets off the phone, saying he'll call back in two minutes. Braxton asks who he is talking

to, sending Heyman into a rant about how he doesn't need permission to talk to other people. Is she worried about him talking to other women? He's the special counsel to Roman Reigns, so now he needs to leave with the Usos.

#### United States Title: Damian Priest vs. Jeff Hardy vs. Sheamus

Priest is defending. Sheamus blasts Hardy to the floor at the bell so Priest goes right after Sheamus in a hurry. Some rapid fire kicks into a clothesline sends Sheamus outside with Priest following. Sheamus sends Priest into the barricade but Hardy is back up. The brawl lets Priest get back inside for a big flip dive over the top onto both of them. Back in and Priest beats up both of them, including the Broken Arrow to Hardy.

They all head outside again with Priest getting posted, leaving Hardy to walk into the Irish Curse for two. A tilt-a-whirl powerslam plants Hardy again and Sheamus hits the ten forearms to Priest's chest. Hardy gets back up to roll Sheamus up for two with Priest making the save. Hardy hits the Whisper in the Wind onto both of them but Sheamus blocks the slingshot dropkick with a kick to the chest.

There's an Alabama Slam to Hardy as Sheamus has lost his mask. The Cloverleaf goes on so Hardy makes the rope, which doesn't matter because there is no rope break (how EXTREME). Priest makes the save and gets caught with White Noise but Hardy Twist of Fates Sheamus to the floor. The Reckoning is countered though and Hardy hits the Twist of Fate on Priest. Sheamus breaks up the Swanton and goes up where, after mocking Hardy's dance, he drops a top rope knee to crush Priest for two more.

Sheamus flips up top but gets chokeslammed down, only to have Hardy Swanton onto both of them for the save. Priest and Hardy slug it out with Priest breaking up the Twist of Fate. Priest's springboard is kneed out of the air by Sheamus so

Hardy can come in and grab a near fall. A sunset flip gets two on Sheamus, who is back up with the Brogue Kick to Hardy. Priest is back up as well though and it's a rollup to Sheamus to retain at 12:20.

**Rating:** B-. Dang they're on a roll with this show and that's a great thing to see. This was all about drama and again they had me wondering with some of those rollups from Hardy. The fact that he can make you believe that a surprise title change is coming makes things that much more interesting. Good stuff here, with Priest getting another win over a former World Champion as a good thing.

Big E. says he isn't scared of Bobby Lashley and the title match is starting tomorrow's Raw at 8pm.

We look back at the Kickoff Show match.

We recap Bianca Belair challenging Becky Lynch for the Smackdown Women's Title. Becky returned at Summerslam and won the title from Belair in a surprise in 26 seconds. Now it is time for their straight rematch, with Lynch not wanting to hear Belair's excuses.

### Smackdown Women's Title: Bianca Belair vs. Becky Lynch

Belair is challenging and Becky is mainly in white to change up the signature look. Becky offers an early handshake but they have to escape an exchange of finisher attempts, sending Lynch outside. Back in and Belair takes her down but has to slip out of a Disarm-Her attempt. Belair hits a splash for two and goes up, where she moonsaults back over Lynch. A dropkick puts Becky on the floor, where she has to yell at Cole for a bit.

Back in and Becky takes Belair down and shouts at the fans a lot. The running legdrop sets up an elbow, allowing Becky to yell at the fans even more. Becky tells the fans to shut their faces but also to cheer for the champ. So silent cheering? Or

cheering from their elbows? Back up and Belair misses a charge in the corner, allowing Becky to hit the Bexploder for two. The kickout leaves Becky looking confused and we hit the camel clutch.

That's countered into a suplex though and they're both down. Belair gets back up and starts cleaning house but has to win a tug of war over her own hair. The spinebuster plants Lynch for two and there's a fall away slam to make it even worse. The gorilla press is countered into a Disarm-Her but Belair is right next to the rope. They head outside with Belair loading up a double chickenwing, only to be sent into the steps.

Back in and Becky hits a top rope legdrop for two and the shocked kickout face returns. Another gorilla press is countered into a cross armbreaker but Belair flails around for the block. A chokebomb gives Belair two and it's time for the exchange of rollups. Becky reverses into the Disarm-Her but has to pull Belair away from the ropes, allowing Belair to muscle her up for the KOD but Sasha Banks returns to jump Belair for the DQ at 17:30.

**Rating:** B. Dang it when did WWE remember how to be great? These two had a heck of a match going and the DQ actually makes sense for a change. You don't want either of them losing and Banks returning is about as good of an idea as they had. Belair continues to look like a star and that's what either women's division has needed. Yes it's more of the Horsewomen, but now someone new is coming in and that's a great thing to see for a change.

Post match Banks beats Belair down and looks at Becky...before beating her down as well. The big brawl is on with Belair getting to leave, saying she'll see the two of them on Friday. I'll certainly take that over another Two Woman Power Trip.

We recap Finn Balor vs. Roman Reigns for the Universal Title. Reigns has been fighting off a bunch of people who want the

title, including attacking Balor. This didn't sit well with Balor, who has brought back the Demon for the big title match.

### Universal Title: Roman Reigns vs. Finn Balor

Balor, as the Demon, is challenging and this is Extreme Rules. They extremely start with an extreme lockup and Reigns throws him down in an extreme manner. Balor starts kicking at the leg (McAfee: "He might be possessed but he has a brain!") but Reigns is back up with a Samoan drop. It's FINALLY time to get some weapons going, as Reigns grabs a kendo stick. Balor rolls outside though and rises up, this time with a bunch of kendo sticks tied together.

The bunch of sticks are enough to put Reigns down but he's right back up to send Balor outside. That's fine with Balor, who is back up to stomp away on Reigns. There's the running kick to the face from the apron and it's time for a table. Reigns isn't having that though and puts it back under the ring, making him even more hated. Instead it's time for a chair but Balor sends him into the steps. NOW it's time to set up the table and the fans are rather pleased.

That takes too long though and Reigns hits a running boot to the face, sending Balor into the post. Reigns tosses him over the barricade and follows out to send Balor into the Kickoff Show area. Balor is tossed onto the Kickoff Show table but he kicks his way to freedom. A high crossbody off the table sends Reigns through the first table of the night for the big crash.

They head back to the ring, with Balor setting up another table. That takes too long though and it's a release Rock Bottom to drive Balor through the table. Balor is back with the Pele Kick but the Superman Punch gives Reigns two. The spear is cut off with a kick to the face and Balor hits the Sling Blade...only to get speared down for two, with the kickout hitting Reigns low (to steal a counter). The Coup de Grace connects but the Usos pull Balor out at two.



It's time for another table but Balor fights back and powerbombs Jey through the announcers' table. One heck of a spear drives Balor through the announcers' table and everyone is down, but the red lights start flashing and Balor pops up again. With the red light through the arena and Balor's music playing, Balor unloads with a chair and dropkicks Reigns through the table. Back in and Balor goes up top...but the top rope breaks. Reigns hits the spear for the pin to retain at 19:40.

**Rating:** B. I'm not sure on this one, but what mattered here was giving you the belief that the title could change hands. The rope breaking was at least something unique and I'll take that over the Usos coming in for the DQ or something like that. Balor was not going to win here and that's all well and good, but they did have a fun match on the way there. I'm not sure how extreme a good chunk of it was, but at least the last few minutes worked well. It might not have been logical, though I'll take what I can get around here.

**Overall Rating:** A. Yeah this was great and I don't know what else there is to say. You had one great match after another and almost nothing was bad. The lack of extreme didn't help, but that's on the show's name rather than anything else. I mean, it can only be so extreme when the main event ends with a rope break (dang I wish I could take credit for that one). Overall, this was an outstanding show and one of the best things WWE has done for a very long time. As usual, WWE is at its best when they have no expectations and there were a grand total of none coming into this one.

### Results

New Day b. Bobby Lashley/AJ Styles/Omos – Big Ending to Lashley

Usos b. Street Profits – Double Superfly Splash to Ford

Charlotte b. Alexa Bliss – Natural Selection

Damian Priest b. Jeff Hardy and Sheamus – Rollup to Sheamus

Bianca Belair b. Becky Lynch via DQ when Sasha Banks

interfered

Roman Reigns b. Finn Balor – Spear

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## Extreme Rules 2021 Preview

It's time to go EXTREME, but I don't think anyone has told WWE about that part. This is Extreme Rules, and of the six (yes only six) matches announced so far, a grand total of one has anything beyond a standard match structure (at this point, triple threats are a way of life and hardly extreme, or even out of the ordinary. I'm sure a few more matches will be added, but it would be nice to have some stipulations added, just to spice things up a bit. Let's get to it.

Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

We'll get the least important one out of the way first. This is a feud that started when Carmella did her best Mandy Rose in NXT impression and suffered a face injury during a match with Morgan. That set a feud between Morgan and

Carmella/Zelina Vega, the latter of whom defeated Morgan this week on Smackdown. Do you have any idea how far you've fallen when you're losing to Vega?

I'll go with Morgan here, if nothing else because I can't fathom Carmella winning a pay per view match these days. I know fans, myself included, want to see Morgan break through to the next level but at this point, it doesn't seem likely. Outside of a surprise Queen of the Ring win, what does Morgan have to look forward to? She isn't breaking into the main event and is toiling with Carmella and Vega. She'll win here, moving her absolutely anywhere but up the ladder.

#### Smackdown Tag Team Titles: Usos(c) vs. Street Profits

Does anyone else think WWE has kind of forgotten this match is happening? The Profits have been dealing with Roman Reigns more than the Usos and the Alpha Academy was already staring the champs down this week on SmackDown. With Montez Ford wrestling a singles match against Reigns this week and Angelo Dawkins not even on the show, would a split between the team in the upcoming Draft surprise you?

Since there is no reason to have the Usos drop the titles, I'll take them to retain here and possibly move on to an unlikely feud with the Alpha Academy. The Bloodline doesn't need to be losing anything for a long time and that includes the Usos, so let them keep the titles here in a good match. I'm not sure what is next for the Profits, but would winning the titles again mean that much for them anyway?

#### Raw Women's Title: Charlotte(c) vs. Alexa Bliss

This is where the show is falling apart as the Raw women's division is among the worst things in wrestling in a very long time. It is clear that the people running it have a very different vision than what has been going on in the last few years and that is getting near impossible to watch. Charlotte is champion again (because of course she is) and Bliss has an

evil doll (because of course she does). That doesn't leave many options.

In something I'm not at all sure of, I'll take Bliss to win the title. I know it sounds insane, but there is something to remember about Charlotte: she loses a lot. Yeah she is a million time champion, but that means she has lost almost as many times. Bliss has been the focus of the division for a long time now and giving her the title is what makes sense, as painful as it is going to be.

#### Smackdown Women's Title: Becky Lynch(c) vs. Bianca Belair

Now we get to the good women's match, as this is at least an interesting story. Lynch came back at Summerslam and beat Belair in less than thirty seconds, leaving Belair to...do everything she usually does and give excuses for her loss. That hasn't been the best look for Belair, but she is now established as a name in the division and a proper match between the two will work well.

That being said, I can't imagine that Belair gets the title back here, so we'll say Lynch retains. She might not win the match, but she retains. They're in a bit of a spot here, as you don't want Lynch losing so soon but the feud is more or less wrapped up as soon as Belair gets a pin. These two could go on for a bit though and that's what they should be doing, with Lynch retaining here.

#### US Title: Damian Priest(c) vs. Jeff Hardy vs. Sheamus

Hardy was added to this match on Monday by pinning Sheamus, and that's a good thing in this case. Above all else, it gives us a fresh match after Priest has already defeated Sheamus. I wasn't wild on seeing those two fight again so mixing it up a bit is one of the best things that they could do. Throw in the fact that Hardy is someone you could see winning almost any title and this should work out.

Priest retains here, as he certainly should do. There is no reason to have him drop the title so soon and pinning either former World Champion is a good move. Sheamus flat out is not getting the title back here, leaving Hardy as the only other option. While Hardy is someone who could win a title, it would not make a lot of sense to have him do it here. Priest retains, as he should.

### Universal Title: Roman Reigns(c) vs. Finn Balor

This has a double twist with Balor as the Demon and an actual stipulation, as this will be held under Extreme Rules. It's nice of them to actually remember that, as it really felt like they were going to go through a show built around a style of match without anything involving that style of match. I know it doesn't seem likely, but would you put anything by WWE at this point?

Of course Reigns keeps the title here, as this feud has felt even more tacked on than the Usos vs. the Profits. WWE is already hyping up Reigns vs. Brock Lesnar for Crown Jewel and there is nothing to suggest that Balor has a chance here. Reigns is going to hold that title for a very long time to come and this is going to be the next successful title defense over a former World Champion as the Demon is next on the list.

### Overall Thoughts

I remember a few years ago when (I believe) Hell in the Cell had almost no matches announced until the weekend of the show. It's the same feeling here, as WWE is having a show built around violence but one of the six matches has any sort of stipulation. If we're to the point where a triple threat match counts as extreme, WWE is in deeper trouble than I thought. Odds are some more stipulations are added either Saturday or Sunday, but if they really can't figure it out until that late, why are we having this show in the first place?

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# Smackdown – September 24, 2021: Has Anybody Seen My Show?

## Smackdown

Date: September 24, 2021

Location: Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

It's the go home show for Extreme Rules, which is mostly minus the extreme. The one stipulation confirmed so far has been Roman Reigns vs. Finn Balor in an Extreme Rules match, though maybe we can get some more added this week. There is also an Intercontinental Title match scheduled so let's get to it.

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

Here is Becky Lynch to get things going and we see a clip of her interrupting Bianca Belair's homecoming last week. Becky talks about how much fun she had last week and wonders where

her celebration is. She never lost the Women's Title, then came back less than a year after having a child and won the title in record time. Last week, Becky tried to come out and offer Belair a handshake but she wouldn't let go of Becky's hand. What choice did she really have? Becky wanted to give Belair time, but then she was goaded into a rematch at Extreme Rules, so what choice does she have?

Cue Bianca Belair to interrupt, telling Becky to stop talking about embarrassing her last week. Becky has embarrassed her at Summerslam and in her hometown, but Belair didn't know she was facing Becky last time. Becky: "But you knew you were going to have a match." (Yep.). She asks if the EST thing is just a catchphrase, sending Belair into a list of her various accomplishments, which took a quarter of the time Becky took. Belair: "Oh and I won an ESPY."

Belair promises that she won't lose in 26 seconds on Sunday and sticks out her hand, earning a slap to the face. The fight is on and Belair plants her with the KOD. This wasn't great as Belair sounded whiny in a lot of places, but her jacket with various patches listing off her accomplishments, including names she has beaten, was awesome.

### Intercontinental Title: Apollo Crews vs. King Nakamura

Nakamura, with Rick Boogs, is defending while Crews has Commander Azeez with him. They start fast by running the ropes until Crews muscles him up for a gorilla press toss out to the floor. We take a break and come back with Nakamura fighting out of a chinlock. The sliding German suplex brings Crews out and the middle rope knee to the chest gets two.

Kinshasa is cut off with an enziguri though and it's a World's Strongest Slam tossed into a Samoan drop for two on the champ. A powerbomb plants Nakamura again but he pops up for a spinning kick to the head. Nakamura follows him outside but gets stared down by Azeez. That leaves Boogs to suplex Azeez

(dang) and Nakamura tries a cross armbreaker, which he turns into a cradle to retain at 7:43.

**Rating:** C. Not too bad here, though Boogs continues to look like the star. Nakamura holding the title feels like something he is just doing at the moment, which is fine enough (McAfee loving Boogs makes it good enough), but he could use a big challenger. Good TV title defense here though and that's all it needed to be.

We look at Roman Reigns making a special appearance on Raw.

Montez Ford is ready to win the Tag Team Titles at Extreme Rules, even if Angelo Dawkins is away at a wedding. The Street Profits have beaten the Usos a few times before and he has been watching them act as Roman Reigns' Bloodline B\*\*\*\*\*.

Roman Reigns is with Paul Heyman and doesn't look pleased. Heyman recaps what Ford says and Reigns wants him tonight. Heyman tries to talk him out of it but that isn't happening, so he'll get the match made.

Post break, Heyman gets Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville to agree to the match. They'll talk about the Draft later.

We look back at Seth Rollins wanting Edge back to face him one more time to end this once and for all.

Rollins has not heard anything in a week and the sound of Edge's silence is deafening. It reveals the truth, which is that Edge is hurt badly. Edge is ashamed to admit that Rollins is the reason he will never compete again but that isn't good enough. Rollins wants an answer and he wants it next week, with Edge crawling to the ring. Next week, he wants to hear that he is the better man and not Edge-Lite. Rollins knows Edge will make the right decision.

Liv Morgan vs. Zelina Vega

Carmella joins commentary (while sitting on the table) as Vega



takes Morgan down into something like a dragon sleeper (as Aleister Black used to use). Morgan slips out and goes after Carmella, allowing Vega to kick her in the face. A Code Red finishes Morgan at 2:19. Morgan is probably winning on Sunday, but dang it's hard to believe she will.

Happy Corbin has gone on a shopping spree because his talk show debuts this week.

Here's Happy Corbin for the first edition of Happy Talk. Corbin whistles the theme song and talks about how he wants to put smiles on people's faces. That made him wonder who his first guest should be, so he has found someone who embodies happiness. Therefore, his guest is...himself! After Corbin brags about his clothes, we look at him attacking Kevin Owens last week. Cue Owens, but the returning Riddick Moss jumps him from behind. A double chokeslam plants Owens onto the steps. Good enough use of Moss.

Montez Ford is excited to face Roman Reigns tonight and he doesn't regret anything he said. He's ready for Reigns and he wants the smoke.

### Nikki Ash vs. Natalya

Rhea Ripley and Tamina are here too because this story needs to keep going. Nikki dropkicks the knee out a few times to start and Natalya needs a breather in the ropes. A suplex drops Ash though and Natalya hammers away in the corner as the camera cuts are on fast. Tamina gets up on the apron but Ash reverses a small package for the pin at 1:48 anyway. Women's matches going short again and I'm not a bit surprised.

Post match here are Shotzi and Nox to (hopefully) finally set up the title shot they earned a bunch of times. They even fire the tank at the champs, which doesn't go well. Cole: "Shots have been fired!" It was one shot you counting challenged twerp.

Dominik Mysterio tells Rey Mysterio that he's being suffocated and would have won without Rey out there. Rey leaves because Dominik isn't thinking straight. Sami Zayn comes in to say Dominik has the tools but should listen to his instincts instead of Rey. Dominik seems to think about it.

Here is Naomi to say she is here to wrestle and wants a match right now. Cue Sonya Deville to say not so fast because Naomi isn't doing this. Naomi wants to face Sonya, who says she would slap her face off if she was still a wrestler. Deville is an executive (Naomi: "Not a good one.") though and orders Naomi's mic cut off. Security takes Naomi out with Deville telling her to TikTok her way to obscurity. Hopefully this leads to Deville back in the ring and Naomi doing...well anything.

The Usos are walking Roman Reigns to the ring but run into the Alpha Academy for the staredown.

A fired up Becky Lynch isn't scared of Bianca Belair because she can beat her in 26 seconds.

Extreme Rules rundown.

### Roman Reigns vs. Montez Ford

Non-title and Ford starts fast by dropkicking Reigns outside as we take an early break. Back with Reigns in control and raining down the right hands in the corner. Ford shrugs off the clotheslines in the corner and enziguris Reigns out to the floor. A whip sends Reigns into the barricade but the announcers' table breaks before Ford can do anything with it. Back in and Reigns tosses him into the air for a big crash, setting up the jumping clothesline to drop Ford again.

We take another break and come back with Ford flipping around, not quite sticking the landing, but hitting a dropkick anyway. The running Blockbuster gets two on Reigns and a DDT drops him again, but the frog splash hits knees. Reigns guillotines him

for the tap at 15:58.

**Rating:** B-. These two had a rather nice match here and that's what they needed to do. It was a good match between two guys who can work a few styles, with Ford hanging in there long enough to give Reigns a bit of a sweat. We weren't about to get an upset or anything close to it, but why should we in a match like this? Good stuff, as you probably guessed.

Post match Paul Heyman says that isn't enough so Ford needs to suffer some more. Heyman calls the Usos out and the beatdown is on, including Ford going through a table. The lights go out though and here is the Demon to dive on the Bloodline. Balor unloads with chair shots to everyone and stands tall to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. Where did this show go? It felt like they had just gotten started and then it was wrapping up. The Lynch/Belair stuff ate up some time, but there were two matches of any kind of length without much in between. It wasn't much of a show and it's heading into not much of a pay per view, but the Draft next week is rendering both of them worthless anyway. Nothing to see here, though everything picks up next week.

### Results

King Nakamura b. Apollo Crews – Rollup

Zelina Vega b. Liv Morgan – Code Red

Nikki Ash b. Natalya – Small package

Roman Reigns b. Montez Ford – Guillotine

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# Main Event – September 16, 2021: The Big Ending

## Main Event

Date: September 16, 2021

Location: TD Garden, Boston, Massachusetts

Commentators: Kevin Patrick, Byron Saxton

We're on the way to Extreme Rules, which is currently missing out on anything extreme. I can't really picture that changing here, but Main Event isn't exactly a show that likes changing things up very often. At best we can get a few good original matches and that's about all. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

## Jaxson Ryker vs. Drew Gulak

Ryker powers him into the corner to start so Gulak tries a slap to the face. This goes as well as you would expect as Ryker plants him down and hits a running headbutt. A shot to the throat slows Ryker down though and it's a headlock takeover to put him on the mat. It takes Ryker a bit longer

than expected to suplex his way to freedom as the comeback is on. A top rope hurricanrana of all things sets up the swinging Boss Man Slam (to a much weaker reaction) to finish Gulak at 5:24.

**Rating:** D. As has been the case with a lot of Ryker matches, this just wasn't interesting. A good chunk of the match was spent in a headlock on the mat and that's not exactly the best way to go. Both of them can do better than this, but it felt like they were doing the bare bones to get by.

From Smackdown.

Here is the Bloodline to get things going. Roman says WWE runs sports entertainment in New York. He runs WWE, so therefore, he runs New York City and Madison Square Garden. Therefore, MSG should acknowledge him. That leads to quite the cheering...and here is Brock Lesnar to interrupt. The Usos immediately get between Reigns and Lesnar, as Paul Heyman asks why Lesnar needs to go after the Universal Title. He could do...and then Lesnar grabs the mic.

Lesnar asks why Heyman didn't tell Reigns he would be at Summerslam and the crowd's YOU F'D UP chant has to be censored. Reigns glares at Heyman, takes the title and leaves with the Usos. Lesnar does his bouncing dance and Heyman does the old Lesnar introduction. Lesnar says that was great, but wants Heyman to accept his challenge to Reigns before Lesnar kills him.

That would be the challenge for the Universal Title, and Lesnar gives him five seconds. The F5 is loaded up but Reigns makes the save with the Superman Punch. Superkicks from the Usos don't do much good and the Usos are destroyed as Reigns leaves with Heyman. This was another amazing segment and I was eating up every second of it.

From Smackdown.

## Tag Team Titles: Usos vs. Street Profits

The Usos are defending and they start fast by sending the Profits outside. The big dive drops Dawkins and we take a very early break. Back with Dawkins shouldering Jimmy down for two but getting hit in the face. Jimmy knocks Dawkins down for two more but misses a jumping legdrop. That's enough to bring Ford back in for a huge no hands dive onto both Usos. Cue Roman Reigns and Paul Heyman to watch as we take another break.

Back again with Dawkins grabbing a swinging neckbreaker and handing it back to Ford for the house cleaning. Ford loses a shoe and throws it out but hits a one shoed running Blockbuster for two. A Doomsday Blockbuster gets two and Dawkins is stunned at the kickout. Back up and Dawkins' running leapfrog over Jey lands in a superkick from Jimmy. Ford pulls Jey outside, leaving Jimmy to get rolled up for two. The kickout sends Dawkins into a superkick though and the Superfly Splash connects for two more. Dawkins is back up to plant Jimmy and Ford adds the twisting frog splash, which draws in Reigns for the DQ at 15:20.

**Rating:** B-. This was another high energy match but the two commercials didn't exactly make this much better. What we got was good enough though, even with the screwy ending. Reigns getting so frustrated that he comes in for the save worked out well enough, as he has a lot going on. I'm just not sure who else is around to challenge the Usos at the moment and that's a problem.

Post match Reigns says he'll take Brock Lesnar on once he gets done with Finn Balor. Cue Balor...meaning the Demon. Thankfully Michael Cole is right there to walk us through the idea of the Demon because it's that complicated to understand. The Demon stares Reigns down to end the show.

From Raw.

## Charlotte vs. Shayna Baszler

Non-title, but it is a Championship Contender's match, which is treated as more important around here at times. Earlier today, Nia Jax was annoyed at Baszler for costing her the Raw Women's Title last week but they'll be fine going forward. Maybe they can get some acting lessons together. Shayna goes after her to start but gets sent outside for the big slingshot dive to send us to a break.

Back with Baszler shaking the ropes to break up a moonsault but some elbows get Charlotte out of the Kirifuda Clutch. Baszler German suplexes the heck out of her for two and kicks away, which brings Charlotte back to life. A shot to the face staggers Baszler and Charlotte sends her outside for the moonsault.

Cue Nia Jax for a distraction though, allowing Shayna to send Charlotte into the steps as we take another break. Back again with Charlotte starting in on Baszler's knee but missing a middle rope knee to the knee. Nia gets up on the apron to distractions Shayna so Charlotte can hit a big boot for the pin at 14:25.

**Rating:** C+. It was a fine back and forth match but egads I'm done with trying to care about Nia and Shayna fighting. This has been going on for the better part of a year now and for some reason they keep at it, despite it being WAY past time to have them go their separate ways.

Post match Charlotte stays in the ring and here is Alexa Bliss, carrying both Lillie and a present. It's a gift for Charlotte, but she doesn't think Bliss knows her taste. Charlotte collects titles instead of dolls and at some point you have to leave your dolls at home. They do a near cartoon exchange of "you want it/no I don't" until Charlotte accepts the present. Charlotte: "Well it's not ticking." And it's a Charlotte style Lillie doll, which Bliss names Charlie.

Bliss wanted Charlotte to have someone to play with after she

takes the title at Extreme Rules. Bliss: "She's even a narcissistic little b\*\*\*\* like you!" Charlotte doesn't want the doll and she'll send Bliss a Mattel Charlotte figure when she is in the padded room. The fight is on and Bliss kicks her out to the floor. Back in and Bliss grabs a Code Red to send Charlotte running. This was another case of insane things being said as written by bad writers and going WAY too nuts to make it work.

From Smackdown.

It's time for a contract signing for Bianca Belair vs. Becky Lynch (not here yet) at Extreme Rules. Belair looks at the contract, but first talks about how she can't believe she is here. She respects Lynch for being a new mom and a champion but she can't believe Lynch ran from a fight. Lynch keeps talking about that 26 seconds at Summerslam because Lynch knows what happens when they're in the ring in a real match. We'll find that out at Extreme Rules and Belair signs.

Cue Becky, in a big red coat and sunglasses to amp up the heel look. Becky says she knew she had Esther's number at Summerslam when she saw Belair's face as her music hit. Belair can be the Man or she can be a fan and there is nothing wrong with sitting out there with the regular people. She's going to give Belair a rematch and maybe she would have beaten her in twenty seconds here in MSG. So what if she doesn't sign the contract. Adam Pearce: "What do you mean if you don't sign it?" Belair: "SIGN THE D\*\*\* CONTRACT!"

The fans chant SIGN IT and Becky is confused. She sat at home and heard them chant WE WANT BECKY and she came back at the last second but this is how you treat her? She left her baby girl at home and now they're picking a flash in the pan over her? Well if you can't join them, beat them, and there's the signing. Becky throws the contract at Belair and leaves. Becky is getting the heel stuff to work, but the "Belair gets a fair match" stuff isn't exactly accurate. She had one at Summerslam



and lost. Stop acting like she was some kind of a victim.

### Lucha House Party vs. Angel Garza/Humberto Carrillo

Garza and Metalik tried takedowns for no counts to start and come up with a handshake. Metalik gets a boot up in the corner so Dorado can come in with a top rope hurricanrana. Garza and Carrillo are sent outside for the stereo dives and we take a break. Back with Dorado hitting a splash off of Metalik's shoulders to crush Carrillo. Garza gets in a cheap shot from the apron to take over and come in though and Carrillo adds a powerbomb for two.

Carrillo and Metalik both head up top with the ladder snapping off a jumping super hurricanrana, allowing the double tag. Dorado kicks both of them in the face and gets two off a high crossbody. The Golden Rewind kind of connects with Garza and the moonsault kind of connects for two, leaving Carrillo to flip dive onto Metalik on the floor. Garza kicks Dorado in the face, TAKES OFF HIS PANTS and finishes with the Wing Clipper at 8:07.

**Rating:** C. These teams work well together and that shouldn't be a surprise after watching Main Event at any point in the last year or so. It's another case where you could have any of them taking up some time on Raw and being completely acceptable, though you are not likely to see that anytime soon. It was certainly better than Ryker vs. Gulak at least.

We look at Seth Rollins injuring Edge.

On Raw, Big E. promised to cash in Money in the Bank.

From Raw.

### Raw World Title: Bobby Lashley vs. Randy Orton

Orton is challenging MVP/Riddle as the seconds. They head outside early on where Orton has to save Riddle by sending Lashley into various things. A ram into the announcers' table

gives Orton one back inside but Lashley sends him into the corner. Lashley misses a charge into the post but he is fine enough to counter the hanging DDT. Orton gets sent outside and comes up holding his leg, only to be fine enough to drop Lashley onto the barricade. A clothesline sends Lashley over said barricade and we take a break.

Back with Orton forearming away and hitting a superplex to send them both crashing down. The delayed near fall sends Lashley outside, where he picks Orton up and sends him head first into the post. Back in and a running shoulder hits Orton's ribs in the corner to drop him in pain. A neckbreaker gives Lashley two and we hit the chinlock. Orton fights up and hits a heck of a clothesline, setting up the scoop powerslam for two.

The RKO takes too long to set up though and Lashley hits the spear for the big near fall. The Hurt Lock doesn't go on and it's the RKO to drop Lashley...who rolls to the apron, with an assist from MVP. Orton gives MVP and RKO and the fans are WAY behind him...until another spear retains the title at 13:18.

**Rating:** C+. You had two talented guys getting some time here and it worked well as a result. I liked the match and even though it was unlikely that Orton was going to win, there was just enough of a chance and that makes things so much better. They built up how fresh of a match this was and while that wasn't a game changer, it was a nice detail to remember.

Post match the brawl is on again with Riddle making the save. That earns him a beating as well, so Lashley puts him through the announcers' table. Lashley comes up holding his knee though...and it's cash in time!

Raw World Title: Bobby Lashley vs. Big E.

Lashley is defending...or he would be if not for his knee injury. Big E. slaps him in the face and that's enough to ring the bell. Lashley takes him to the mat and the brawl is on. A

spear cuts Big E. down for two but he goes back to Lashley's bad leg. The Big Ending gives Big E. the pin and the title at 1:18!

New Day comes out to celebrate and a lot of pyro goes off to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. The recap stuff helped a good bit here as you can tell WWE is slowly starting to fix some things. They have nowhere to go but up at this point, at least on Monday, so it is quite the relief to see things getting better. The original stuff was as useless as it often tends to be on Main Event, and I can't even pretend to be surprised anymore.

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# Smackdown – September 17, 2021: They Actually Can't

# Help It

## Smackdown

Date: September 17, 2021

Location: Thompson-Boling Arena, Knoxville, Tennessee

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

It's almost time for Extreme Rules hold the extreme. So far we have nothing extreme whatsoever about the show and that is going to make for a weird card. I can imagine some matches being adjusted, though WWE is the kind of place where the show being named one thing and not having any of it is not out of the question. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Seth Rollins beating and injuring Edge last week, with Michael Cole doing a voiceover to explain what happened.

Here is the Bloodline to get things going. We see a clip of Brock Lesnar returning last week and issuing the challenge to Roman Reigns. Then the Demon showed up because he is going to be facing Reigns at Extreme Rules. The winner of that will get Lesnar at Crown Jewel in Saudi Arabia, which doesn't do much good for Extreme Rules. Reigns tells Paul Heyman to teach these people how to acknowledge him, so Heyman goes into a speech about how Reigns never takes a day off. He fears no man, beast or demon, but they all fear him. Heyman: "Don't boo me. You know that it's true!"

Heyman knows that Balor is scared of Reigns and last week, he saw...something in Brock Lesnar's eyes, but here is Big E. to interrupt instead. The fans give Big E. quite the reception for his first night as WWE Champion. Before he can say anything, here is Balor to interrupt as well. We take a break and come back with...a match actually.

## Usos vs. Finn Balor/Big E.

Non-title contenders match. Jey kicks Balor in the face to start but Balor takes him down for a basement dropkick. Big E. comes in and takes Jey to the apron for a splash and two. Back in and a double suplex gets one on Big E. but a missed charge allows the hot tag to bring Balor in for the house cleaning. Jey pulls Balor to the floor though and Jimmy adds a dive as we take a break.

We come back with Balor in a fireman's carry and being driven head first into the corner for two. Balor fights out of a chinlock and nails the Pele kick, allowing the double tag to Big E. and Jey. Big E. takes him down and loads up the Warrior Splash but charges into a Samoan drop. Back up and Big E. hits the Rock Bottom out of the corner, setting up the Warrior Splash to Jimmy. The spear through the ropes is cut off by a kick to the face and a superkick gets two. Balor comes back in with a Sling Blade and it's the Coup de Grace to Jimmy. At the same time, Big E. hits the Big Ending on Jey for the pin at 11:20.

**Rating:** C+. What a random tag match here, especially with the Tag Team Champions taking a clean fall. There is no shame in losing to the WWE Champion, but things are already busy enough without getting to the Usos defending the titles against a makeshift team, probably next month. It was a surprise, but I'm not sure if that is a good thing.

Paul Heyman and Roman Reigns are watching in the back as Reigns asks if there is anything Heyman needs to tell him. Reigns asks if Heyman knew about Brock Lesnar showing up at Extreme Rules and Heyman insists that he didn't. Heyman knows that Lesnar showed up last week with the lie about Heyman knowing about Summerslam because Lesnar is scared of Reigns. That's the mask he hides behind you see. Reigns asks if Lesnar is going to be at Extreme Rules, but Heyman doesn't know anything about it. Reigns says he doesn't pay Heyman to think,

but to know in advance.

### Rick Boogs vs. Robert Roode

King Nakamura and Dolph Ziggler are here too. Roode knocks him into the corner to start and snaps off a quick Blockbuster for two. Boogs is right back up with a Samoan drop and a t-bone suplex. The Boogs Cruise finishes Roode at 2:02.

Post match Boogs and Nakamura go to celebrate with Pat McAfee but here are Commander Azeez and Apollo Crews to take them out. Crews grabs the mic and says he is tired of Nakamura disrespecting the title, so he wants a rematch. We're really doing this feud again?

We recap Kevin Owens vs. Happy Corbin, including Logan Paul and Corbin beating Owens up.

Owens is ready to beat up Corbin and swap emotions with him.

### Kevin Owens vs. Happy Corbin

Hold on as Corbin jumps Owens from behind to start and leaves him laying. No match for now.

We look at Bianca Belair's (the hometown girl) high school athletic accomplishments. Ignore her name being listed as Bianca Blair.

Kayla Braxton interrupts Paul Heyman, who has another near heart attack. She has heard that Brock Lesnar will be heading to Raw in the WWE Draft, with Heyman laughing at the idea that she has sources. Heyman accuses her of having a sexual lust for her but she can't be with the wise man. LEAVE HIM ALONE! Then Big E. is here as well, with Heyman having to congratulate him on his title win. Big E. says he's looking forward to facing Heyman's boy at Survivor Series...be it Lesnar or Reigns. Or maybe Finn Balor, because Heyman may have overlooked him. Cue the Usos to jump Big E. and lay him out.

Here is Seth Rollins to say someone should have helped Big E. Never mind that though as Rollins wants to talk about how great last week was for him. What happened to Edge was horrible and scary and Rollins describes feeling the bones break. We see a video on the match, plus the attack and Edge leaving in an ambulance. Rollins asks what you were expecting to happen.

Last week he had his great win and then everyone was staring at him and calling him a monster. No he didn't go too far, because Edge went too far to try and face Rollins last week. Rollins blames the fans for pushing Edge to the match, including cheering when Edge called him Edge-Lite. What makes it even better is that Rollins is not done with Edge. See this week on NXT (he'll probably get fined for leaving out the 2.0), Edge's wife Beth Phoenix said that Edge was at home recuperating.

That means Edge is watching, so Rollins wants to know if Edge is physically and emotionally capable of getting back in the ring. Rollins saw the fear in Edge's face and he cannot live with himself feeling sorry for someone like Edge. That's why he can't move on until he finishes Edge once and for all. Rollins can either go to Edge's cabin and beat him up in front of his family, or Edge can crawl back to this ring for one more dance. Rollins was selling the emotions here but this took some time to get to the point.

Becky Lynch isn't worried about Bianca Belair getting momentum because she has stopped Belair in her tracks before. Tonight is Belair's homecoming, but maybe Becky will have to check it out.

### Toni Storm/Liv Morgan vs. Zelina Vega/Carmella

Carmella knocks Morgan off the apron to start and then runs away from the threat of Storm. Vega comes in instead and chops at Storm, who kicks her in the chest. A running knee drops

Storm and we hear about how Storm is obsessed with the 80s. Storm suplexes her way out of trouble and brings Morgan in to kick Carmella into the corner. That's bad enough that Vega and a screaming Carmella walk out at 2:10.

Post match Morgan asks if she broke Carmella's nose but she isn't sorry at all. Morgan is tired of Carmella running away, so she wants a match at Extreme Rules. If Carmella accepts, Morgan will make her look as ugly on the outside as she does on the inside. WWE women? Arguing about looks?

The Street Profits are looking forward to celebrating with Bianca Belair but more than that, they want the Tag Team Titles from the Usos.

Carmella is in the trainer's room and accepts the challenge for Extreme Rules. That's cool with Zelina Vega, who will face Liv Morgan first.

Finn Balor talks about being born into a family of railroad workers instead of coming from a wrestling family. He fought and clawed to come here and the Demon comes from everyone who has ever disrespected him. The Demon is a rage in him which cannot be controlled and it summons him. Roman Reigns and the Usos' disrespect has just lit a fire in him. You are looking at the face of Finn Balor but at Extreme Rules, you will see the face of the Demon. Then a light shines onto his face and he turns into the Demon. Was anyone asking for or needing an explanation of the Demon?

Naomi comes up to Sonya Deville and wants to know why she can't have a match. She lists off her resume and gets in Deville's face, promising to get her match one way or another. Deville does not seem pleased.

#### Dominik Mysterio vs. Sami Zayn

Rey Mysterio comes out to join commentary, which Dominik does not seem to like. Sami goes after Rey to start and the



distraction lets him take Dominik down to start. Back in and Sami tries a top rope armdrag, only to get crotched down to the floor. Dominik adds a big dive and Rey is pleased as we take a break. We come back with Dominik hitting a hurricanrana into an enziguri as Rey is in full on cheerleader mode. The 619 connects but the frog splash this knees, allowing Sami to grab a cradle for the pin at 6:09.

**Rating:** C. This was a completely watchable match with a story included. I'm sure we'll be getting Dominik vs. Rey at some point in the future, as there isn't much left to do with them. Dominik just lost clean so what else can be done here? Dominik told Rey to stay out, he wouldn't, and Dominik lost. Now they can get to the match at some point in the future, however they decide to get there.

We look at Bianca Belair's accomplishments as she attended her high school homecoming celebration.

Here is Kane for Belair's homecoming. Kane brings up the fire and says that never gets old. He brings out Bianca Belair, who is in the Tennessee orange. There are balloons and a table with something underneath a cover as Kane asks her how it feels to be back in Knoxville. Belair is overwhelmed and talks about how her dad (in the front row) taught her to finish something if someone started something with her. That's what she is going to do with Becky Lynch at Extreme Rules.

Kane says she'll have to bring the title back to Knoxville for a big celebration, but he has a gift for her tonight: the Key to Knox County (which is a HUGE key). Belair thanks everyone and is proud to be Knoxville made. She wants to celebrate the town and that means it's time to sing Rocky Top (the University of Tennessee fight song). Cue Becky Lynch (in bright yellow and sunglasses) to mock the song and say that Belair has a key but Becky has the title on lock. Belair: "YOU DON'T EVEN GO HERE!"

That means a YOU DON'T GO HERE chant as Becky says tonight can be Belair's night because Extreme Rules won't be. Becky offers a handshake but Belair pulls her in, only to miss the clothesline. The Manhandle Slam plants Belair and Becky escapes because NO HOMETOWN ENDING CAN BE NICE! This is little more than a joke at this point and it's such a great example of a lot of WWE's problems.

**Overall Rating:** C. That ending really did leave a bad taste in my mouth as they had everything going until the last thirty seconds. The fans LOVED Belair but that's not how things can end in WWE, meaning Becky has to get the last laugh. The rest of the show was actually pretty skippable, though you probably had a decent time if you stuck with it. Just end the show with Belair singing Rocky Top and you have a much better episode. Now if they can actually make Extreme Rules EXTREME, they could be on to something better.

### Results

Big E./Finn Balor b. Usos – Big Ending to Jey

Rick Boogs b. Robert Roode – Boogs Cruise

Liv Morgan/Toni Storm b. Carmella/Zelina Vega via countout

Sami Zayn b. Dominik Mysterio – Rollup

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