

# Smackdown – November 22, 2024: Welcome Welcome Back Back

## Smackdown

Date: November 22, 2024

Location: Delta Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're just over a week away from Survivor Series and the card still needs some help. Right now we have the women's WarGames match and the Raw World Title match set, but the men's WarGames match still needs an extra name. Maybe that, plus some other things, get set up this week so let's get to it.

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

Opening recap, focusing on Roman Reigns and company needing help against the Bloodline.

Here are the Bloodline and Bronson Reed to get things going. Solo Sikoa does his usual thing and requests that Roman Reigns meet him in the ring tonight to accept terms of surrender. Then Reigns and the Usos can acknowledge him. And that's that for a fast opening sequence.

Women's United States Title Tournament First Round: Bianca Belair vs. Chelsea Green vs. Blair Davenport

They trade rollups to start until Green clotheslines Davenport out to the floor. Green's middle rope sunset flip gets two on Belair, who is back up with a slingshot dive to drop Green outside. Davenport is back up with a shot of her own though and we take a break. Back with Green hitting a Rough Ryder on Belair but getting stomped down by Davenport.

Belair suplexes Davenport for two with Green making the save,

earning herself some shoulders in the corner. Green superplexes Davenport, who gets crushed by Belair's 450, with Green's stolen cover only getting two. We cut to the back where someone has knocked Jade Cargill through the windshield of a car, which is enough for Belair to run off to help her. The Unprettier gives Green the pin on Davenport at 9:50.

**Rating:** C+. Green advancing is nice to see as there is a chance that she could wind up winning the title in a nice surprise. Other than that, this was more about the Cargill attack, which could lead into something interesting with WarGames right around the corner. Other than that, Davenport was pretty much just there to take the fall, which is about all she's doing at the moment anyway.

Post break Belair gets in the ambulance with Cargill as Bayley and Naomi aren't sure what to do. It still isn't clear who attacked Cargill.

#### United States Title: LA Knight vs. Santos Escobar

Escobar, with the rest of Legado del Fantasma, is challenging. Hold on though as we get a video from Shinsuke Nakamura, talking about how Knight is scared of everything and this is the beginning of his end. Escobar jumps Knight from behind to start fast and knocks him to the floor for the slingshot dive.

We take a break and come back with Escobar kicking Knight in the head for two, setting up the seated armbar. Knight fights up and hits the slingshot shoulder before grabbing the jumping neckbreaker for two. The jumping top rope elbow is loaded up but cue Nakamura for a distraction. Escobar takes Knight down and hits a frog splash but doesn't cover. Instead the Phantom Driver is loaded up but Knight reverses into the BFT for the pin at 8:04.

**Rating:** C. They kept this short and to the point, as Knight gets to add another win to his resume. Nakamura is coming for Knight soon enough though and there is a good chance that

we'll be seeing it at Survivor Series or Saturday Night's Main Event. For now though, Knight gets a quick boost, with a nice counter to let him retain the title.

Post match Nakamura runs in and lays Knight out.

We look back at Tommaso Ciampa costing the Street Profits their Tag Team Title shot.

Johnny Gargano asks the Motor City Machine Guns for a Tag Team Title shot but they think the Street Profits deserve another shot. The Profits come in and don't think much of Ciampa. All this did was show me that the Profits are giants compared to Gargano and the Guns.

Nia Jax doesn't know anything about who attacked Jade Cargill.

Cody Rhodes is told Kevin Owens isn't here but doesn't buy it.

Here is Rhodes for a chat. Rhodes doesn't believe that Kevin Owens isn't here so cue Owens (in a sleeveless tuxedo shirt) to say he deserves the Rhodes suit treatment (as Rhodes is in workout gear rather than his usual suit). Owens doesn't get why Rhodes is upset when everything is his fault. Rhodes is ready to fight as Owens comes to ringside to rant about how Rhodes teamed with Roman Reigns after Owens spent years fighting the Bloodline.

Reigns needed help and Rhodes teamed with him so everything is his fault. Rhodes goes on a rant about how this is all on Owens, who always has to self sabotage himself. Owens has all of the accolades and is a great star but he doesn't realize it. Rhodes beat him at Bash In Berlin because, as always, Owens couldn't pull the trigger. He pulled the trigger later, but it was on the wrong guy.

Rhodes issues the challenge for Saturday Night's Main Event but Owens gives him the "on my time" response. Owens says he hates Rhodes, though Rhodes says Owens hates himself. Rhodes

won't wait to cross any line when they finally fight. This was a good laying out of the whole story and Rhodes was selling the emotion rather well.

Roman Reigns, the Usos and Sami Zayn aren't sure what to do for WarGames. Cody Rhodes and Seth Rollins' names are floated but Reigns shuts them down. Reigns says the four of them can do it themselves so Zayn is in, but wants to know what the plan is going to be. Even Reigns doesn't know this time.

Cody Rhodes is storming through the back and doesn't like Carmelo Hayes saying Rhodes had that coming. Shoving ensues.

### Bayley/Naomi vs. Tiffany Stratton/Candice LeRae

Nia Jax is here with the villains. Naomi slugs away at Stratton to start and snaps off a running hurricanrana. That means Stratton needs a breather on the floor, with Jax's distraction letting LeRae get in a cheap shot. Bayley is in with a dive onto Stratton and we take an early breather. Back with Bayley in trouble and Stratton drawing Naomi in to cut off a tag attempt. LeRae and Stratton get in an argument though, with LeRae having to make another save. Bayley fights up but Jax pulls Naomi off the apron for the DQ at 7:46.

**Rating:** C. This was more about the villains arguing than anything else, which is a big deal with WarGames just over a week away. I'm not sure what to expect from the match, but having Jax get involved here to avoid someone take a fall is a good idea. They weren't given the chance to do much here but it kept the bigger story moving well enough.

Post match the beatdown is on but Iyo Sky runs in for the save. Liv Morgan and Raquel Rodriguez come in to jump Sky but Rhea Ripley runs in with the kendo stick to clean house.

### Montez Ford vs. Tommaso Ciampa

Ciampa misses a charge into the corner to start and Ford

hammers away, setting up a quick dropkick for two. Back up and Ciampa hits a knee to the ribs, only to be sent to the floor for the big flip dive. A hard knee to the face sends Ford off the apron though and we take a break. Back with Ford powerbombing him out of the corner and grabbing a belly to back suplex. The standing moonsault gives Ford two, with Ciampa's swinging neckbreaker getting the same. The Fairy Tale Ending is cut off but Ciampa knees Ford out of the air. Ciampa tries the Fairy Tale Ending again, only for Ford to reverse into a cradle for the pin at 7:52.

**Rating:** C+. They packed in a good bit of offense here and it made for a good enough match, though I'm a bit surprised that Ciampa lost clean so soon after his recent rampage. One would think that it would lead to Ciampa doing something better but maybe it leads to DIY splitting and moving on to something better. Ford continues to look good on his own, though he seems to be sticking with the tag team for the time being.

Post match Ciampa stays on Ford but Angelo Dawkins and Johnny Gargano run in to break it up. Ciampa shoves Gargano down so the Motor City Machine Guns run in to really break it up. Ciampa asks Gargano whose team he is on.

Here's what's coming next week.

Here is the Bloodline to get the answer from Roman Reigns and company. Cue Reigns, the Usos and Sami Zayn for the big showdown but Solo Sikoa says he still loves all four of them. If they join the Bloodline, the team can run the company for decades. Reigns has no fifth man and no wise man, so join the team or die where you stand...and Paul Heyman is back (in a red shirt with no tie). There is no way to do WarGames 5-4 because that math does not make sense to the Wise Man.

That's why he has a fifth man...and CM Punk is back. The big brawl is on with the Bloodline being cleared out, leaving Reigns and Punk to have a big staredown, with Heyman between

them for the awesome visual. The fans think this is awesome and...well yeah. It was going to be Punk, Rollins or on a long shot, Lesnar, and Punk is the (arguably) the most interesting of them all.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a show where the wrestling was nowhere near as important as the talking and it worked well. The point of this show was the big ending with Punk and Heyman returning, but the Rhodes/Owens segment worked well too. They did a nice job of making things more interesting for Survivor Series and probably some other shows, and that's the kind of show that can be the most interesting around. Good stuff here, with the big angle at the end being what the match needed.

### Results

Chelsea Green b. Bianca Belair and Blair Davenport – Unprettier to Davenport

LA Knight b. Santos Escobar – BFT

Bayley/Naomi b. Tiffany Stratton/Candice LeRae via DQ when Nia Jax interfered

Montez Ford b. Tommaso Ciampa – Cradle

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# Smackdown – August 23, 2024: Trust Him

## Smackdown

Date: August 23, 2024

Location: Capital One Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We are just over a week away from Bash In Berlin and the Smackdown side of things seems to be mostly ready. At the same time though, Roman Reigns was taken out by the Bloodline last week and that is not going to go well. I'm not sure if Reigns is going to be back tonight, but the Bloodline almost has to take a victory lap. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the Bloodline taking out Roman Reigns last week, with Jacob Fatu doing most of the damage.

Here is A-Town Down Under with the Grayson Waller Effect to get things going. They start fast this week because their guest is none other than Cody Rhodes, who the fans seem to love. The villains cut off his entrance though, which is not exactly well received. Cody loads up his catchphrase, which Waller finishes for him to push another button. Waller says the idiot fans don't know the real Cody, whose friends keep getting beaten up. Cody: "Are you done?"

Waller probably thinks that Kevin Owens getting a title shot is charity but Owens has not stopped fighting the Bloodline since before Cody came back. He has never used Owens, but can Waller and Theory say the same about each other? Waller is using Theory and the fans are waiting for Theory to do

something about it. Waller shifts the focus back to a video on Owens, showing him attacking various friends and associates (including Chris Jericho in an all time segment with the Festival OF Friendship), including Sami Zayn and Sami Zayn (Again).

Cue Owens to interrupt, saying everyone he turned on in that video, save for Kofi Kingston, deserved it. Cue Nick Aldis, with Owens cutting him off to ask him to make the tag match. Aldis says it's on, but Owens asks if he can punch Waller in the face. Aldis: "Make it quick." The fight is on, but Owens is sent into Rhodes for the tension inducing moment.

### United States Title: LA Knight vs. Santos Escobar

Knight is defending and Escobar has the rest of Legado del Fantasma with him. Hold on though as the rest of Legado jumps Knight on the floor before the bell, which is at least worthy of a mass ejection. Knight says ring the bell and avoids an early charge to get two off a rollup.

We take an early break and come back with Knight in trouble as Escobar crushes him with a frog splash for two. An elbow drop misses though and Knight hits an atomic drop into a discus lariat for the double knockdown. Knight stomps away in the corner and gets two off a Side Effect as the fans are rather pleased. The BFT and the Phantom Driver are both broken up so Escobar takes him to the middle rope. That's broken up for a middle rope LA Elbow, setting up the BFT to retain the title at 9:07.

**Rating:** C+. Knight gets attacked and injured before the match, fights from behind and retains the title over someone with some status. That's as simple as it can get and it worked just fine here, with Knight getting his first successful title defense. It's a case where they didn't need to make this complicated and it went perfectly well.

We look at Carmelo Hayes beating Andrade last week.



Hayes says Andrade is never going to be as good as he is. Cue Andrade and they have to be held back, with another match being set up for next week.

Santos Escobar yells at the rest of Legado del Fantasma for costing him the match. Baron Corbin and Apollo Crews come in to laugh, with Escobar wanting to face Corbin next week.

Blair Davenport/Isla Dawn/Alba Fyre vs. Naomi/Jade Cargill/Bianca Belair

Dawn actually takes Naomi down to start, which doesn't last long as Belair moonsaults over her and sends Dawn outside. The big dive takes Dawn out again and we take an early break. Back with Belair grabbing a slingshot rollup for two on Davenport, who stomps Belair in the back for two. The villains get in a triple choking pose on the ropes and some running knees get two more.

Fyre grabs a Black Widow but Dawn gets caught cheating, allowing Belair to backbreaker her way to freedom. The tag brings in Cargill to clean house but Davenport hits a quick superkick. Naomi comes in to pick the pace up again, with a hanging faceplant/DDT to Dawn and Fyre. Belair hits a big dive to the floor, taking out Cargill as well as some villains. That leaves Naomi to hit the split legged moonsault to finish Davenport at 9:33.

**Rating:** B-. This started slowly but the last two minutes or so went nuts with everyone getting a chance to shine. Belair and Cargill are already set for a Women's Tag Team Title shot at Bash In Berlin, though it was nice to see them not get a pin over the champions here to set it up. If nothing else, Dawn and Fyre need to be kept strong, which isn't always the case around here.

We look at WWE in Germany back in the mid 90s, with Natalya of all people narrating.

Here is the Bloodline for their Tag Team Title shot. Before the match, Solo Sikoa requests acknowledgment and says the OTC is DONE. Sikoa says he is next in line for a title shot after Bash In Berlin, but first there is something wrong with the Tag Team Titles. He tells Jacob Fatu to step up...and hand Sikoa his title. Actually, give it to Tonga Loa, because Fatu is Sikoa's personal enforcer and not part of a tag team. Cue the Street Profits and B-Fab to mock the new version of the team before we get going.

LA Knight issues an open challenge for a US Title shot next week.

### Tag Team Titles: Bloodline vs. Street Profits

The Bloodline is defending. Dawkins hammers Loa into the corner to start but it's Tama coming in for two off a jumping neckbreaker. Ford comes in to drop Tama and a standing moonsault gets two. An assisted neckbreaker gets two on Ford, who is right back with a jumping enziguri. Dawkins comes back in with a double flapjack as everything breaks down, with Ford being LAUNCHED over the top and onto the steps.

We take a break and come back with Ford hitting a jumping DDT, allowing the diving tag off to Dawkins. Everything breaks down and the Silencer hits Tama with Loa having to make a save. The fight goes outside, where Fatu hits some superkicks. That's enough for Tama to hit a running Downward Spiral for the pin on Dawkins at 9:11.

**Rating:** B-. This was a good way to change things over to the other Bloodline, which is apparently something that can just be done around here. It makes things that much easier to do though and I'll take that over some complicated situation. The match itself was a good, fast paced match, but the Bloodline isn't about to lose the titles anytime soon.

Post match the beatdown continues until DIY makes the save. That doesn't work either though as Fatu and company wreck the

good guys.

Cody Rhodes and Kevin Owens have a bit of a strained chat, with Owens bringing up turning on so many people. Cody seems to trust him though.

B-Fab says DIY and the Street Profits are fine, with Candice LeRae and Indi Hartwell going into the trainer's room to check on them.

Michin talks about overcoming negative expectations to get this far while breaking a lot of things.

Nia Jax glares at Pretty Deadly and Tiffany Stratton about fixing her crown. With the three of them gone, Chelsea Green and Piper Niven are overheard mocking Jax, who glares them away.

#### Cody Rhodes/Kevin Owens vs. A-Town Down Under

Rhodes works on Waller's arm to start and it's quickly off to Owens for a backsplash. A double back elbow gets two more on Waller but Theory offers a distraction, allowing Waller to get in a cheap shot. Owens gets punched down and we take an early break. Back with Owens fighting his way out of trouble and making the tag off to Rhodes. The Disaster Kick sends Waller outside, with Rhodes sending Theory over the announcers' table.

Back in and Waller cuts Rhodes off, allowing Theory to get in some choking. The chinlock goes on so Owens plays cheerleader, which brings Rhodes and the fans right back up. The Cody Cutter drops Theory but Waller's distraction draws Owens out to the floor. Rhodes sends both of them outside though and the diving tag brings in Owens, who drops outside to beat them up in a fresh location. The Cannonball hits Waller in the corner and the Swanton gets two, with Theory making the save. Not that it matters as the Pop Up Powerbomb gives Owens the pin on Waller at 11:38.

**Rating:** B-. This was more about whether or not Rhodes and Owens could get along and it went well enough, even as A-Town Down Under's downward spiral continues. The team seems destined to fall apart sooner than later and it might be with Theory getting the needed boost as a result. They did what they needed to here though and I'll take that for a main event.

Bash In Berlin rundown.

Back in the ring, Owens picks up the title and teases hitting Rhodes but hands him the title instead, leaving Rhodes looking rather relieved to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. There was only so much that could be added for this show and it wound up doing well enough with everything they had. The main matches are set for Bash In Berlin and there was only so much that could be done here. There is nothing wrong with spending a show advancing stories though and that is what they made work this week. You don't really need to see this one, but it did accomplish a few things.

### Results

LA Knight b. Santos Escobar – BFT

Naomi/Jade Cargill/Bianca Belair b. Blair Davenport/Isla Dawn/Alba Fyre – Split legged moonsault to Davenport

Bloodline b. Street Profits – Running Downward Spiral to Dawkins

Cody Rhodes/Kevin Owens b. A-Town Down Under – Pop Up Powerbomb to Waller

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# Smackdown – August 16, 2024: That's A Problem

## Smackdown

Date: August 16, 2024

Location: Kia Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Corey Graves

We're just over two weeks away from Bash In Berlin and the show's biggest match is officially set, as Kevin Owens will challenge Cody Rhodes for the Smackdown World Title. That's big enough, but other than that, Roman Reigns is back as well, meaning it's time to go after the new Bloodline. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Roman Reigns returning and wrecking the Bloodline last week.

Tiffany Stratton and Pretty Deadly are in the ring to introduce Nia Jax for her championship celebration. Jax is carried to the ring on her throne and seems a bit overwhelmed by all of the...pink. Jax: "My style is more destruction." She

brags about her success and is proud to be YOUR Women's Champion, so everyone can bow down to her. Including Stratton. First up though, Pretty Deadly sings an original song about how great Stratton is...and here is Michin with a kendo stick to clean house.

Naomi, Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair enjoyed that and are ready to celebrate, but here is Carmelo Hayes to say they'll be celebrating when he beats Andrade.

### Andrade vs. Carmelo Hayes

Andrade chases him to the floor to start but Hayes catches him on the way back in. A hard springboard clothesline drops Andrade again but he comes back with a dropkick. With Hayes knocked to the floor, Andrade drops him again with the middle rope moonsault (and it connects rather well). Back up and Hayes manages to knock him off the ropes and onto the apron for a crash as we take a break.

We come back with both of them going to the top for Andrade's super Spanish Fly and a near fall. Hayes' superkick is shrugged off and they trade suplexes to give Hayes two. Nothing But Net misses and they trade rollups for two each. Andrade's spinning elbow gets two and the fans deem this awesome. The Message is loaded up but Hayes reverses into a rollup for the pin at 9:36.

**Rating:** B. This is what Hayes has been needing as he hasn't won an important match in a good while. The fact that the two of them have chemistry together makes it even better, as they had a heck of a match. I'm not sure if this is going to be enough to move Hayes that far forward, but at least he is getting a clean win to boost him up a bit.

Post match Hayes gets a little too braggadocios and the brawl is on again, with referees breaking it up.

Tama Tonga presents Solo Sikoa with the lei, but Sikoa says if

Roman Reigns takes it back, Sikoa will have to acknowledge him.

Giovanni Vinci is coming.

### Naomi vs. Blair Davenport

They slug it out to start with Davenport managing to drop her. Back up and Naomi knocks her out to the floor, setting up a dive off the apron. A high crossbody gets two on Davenport back inside and we take a break. Back with Naomi grabbing a headscissors and stating the comeback, setting up the splits splash for two. A kick to the face sends Davenport into the corner but she's fine enough to block the split legged moonsault. Davenport's knee to the head finishes at 6:50.

Rating: C. I'm still not getting the appeal of Davenport. She's fine enough with the stuff in the ring but she's not someone who gets my attention. I can go with trying someone else though as you always need fresh blood, but this hasn't been off to a great start. On a sidenote, yes Naomi lost in her hometown, though this didn't feel like the old school humiliation losses. That's nice to see, as it came off more as a run of the mill loss which happened to take place in a certain place.

A-Town Down Under argue about Kevin Owens, who pops up behind them to say they're right: he does get everything handed to him. Owens is willing to take Grayson Waller out there right now and beat him up to prove a point.

Tribute to Afa, with a bunch of legends talking about the Wild Samoans.

### Kevin Owens vs. Grayson Waller

Austin Theory is here with Waller. Owens dropkicks him into the corner at the bell and hits a backplash as the fans rather approve. They go outside with Owens hitting a running

clothesline but Theory's distraction lets Waller hit his own clothesline. For some reason Waller sits on the other side of the barricade, with Owens popping up behind him to drag him back.

A cheap shot puts Owens down though and Waller's middle rope elbow gets two. Owens knocks him off the top and hits the Swanton for two but Waller's neck snap across the top is good for a breather. The rolling Stunner takes too long though and Owens hits the Stunner for the pin at 4:41.

**Rating:** C. This was little more than a workout for Owens before his big title match in a few weeks and that's all it needed to be. Owens could use the boost, as he hasn't picked up many big wins lately, which granted is kind of the point of the title match. Waller losing isn't going to hurt him, especially to a star as big as Owens.

Post match Owens jumps Waller again but Theory makes the save and the villains grab chairs. Cody Rhodes runs in for the save and house is quickly cleaned. Owens is behind Rhodes with the chair but picks up the title instead. The fans don't like that, but Owens hands it back to Rhodes as the fans sing the champ's song.

Solo Siko wants Roman Reigns to acknowledge him.

Legado del Fantasma is at dinner and Santos Escobar thinks the team has gotten complacent. He won't have the team name diminished and next week, he'll be the US Champ.

Here is LA Knight to say that looked like a fun dinner. Santos Escobar might have forgotten who he is but next week the BFT is going to make him forget where he is. Escobar thinks Knight is trash, but the trash is going to put him on his a\*\*.

Chelsea Green and Piper Niven thank Michin for breaking up the celebration earlier. Michin is happy because she is getting a title shot. Then Jax jumps her.



## Street Profits vs. DIY

For a title shot against the Bloodline. Ford and Gargano lock up to start with Ford flipping out of a wristlock. They both miss kicks to the face and it's an early standoff. Dawkins and Ciampa come in, with the former hitting a jumping elbow to the face. A double flapjack sends Ciampa outside, where Dawkins runs him over again and we take a break.

Back with Gargano making the comeback and getting a quick two on Ford. DIY is sent into each other but Ciampa comes back in to clean house anyway. A running knee gives Ciampa two but Dawkins powers out of One Final Beat. Everything breaks down again and Gargano and Ford hit slingshot dives to the floor. Back in and they trade superkicks for a double knockdown and we take another break.

Back again with Ford's 450 hitting Ciampa's raised knees and a Shatter Machine gets two on Ford. The Revelation gets two on Ciampa with Gargano making a save of his own. Ford gets sends outside and it's a superkick into the Fairy Tale Ending for a rather near fall on Dawkins. Gargano dives onto Ford but the slingshot spear is countered into the swinging butterfly suplex. The Doomsday Blockbuster hits Gargano and Dawkins cuts off Ciampa, leaving Ford to get the pin at 15:17.

**Rating:** B. This was an all action match and it would have been even better if about half of it wasn't missing due to commercials. DIY can still bring it when they get the chance and the Profits got their first big win without Bobby Lashley in a little while. Awesome main event here, with a fresh title match being set up.

Here is Solo Sikoa with Tama Tonga (no Tonga Loa) to order Roman Reigns to acknowledge him. The fans won't acknowledge him either but if Reigns wants to be the Tribal Chief again, come make it happen. This brings out Reigns, with Sikoa handing the lei off to Tama and telling him to leave. The

brawl is on but Tama comes back in to start the double teaming. Reigns shrugs that off and cleans house, including the spear to Sikoa. Reigns gets the lei back...and Jacob Fatu is back to jump him.

The running Umaga Attack hits in the corner (leaving Reigns' eyes bugging out in a funny visual) and Reigns is powerbombed through the announcers' table. Tama puts the lei around Sikoa's neck and the Bloodline poses over Reigns to end the show. This was needed as there was little reason to believe that Sikoa and the Tongas were going to be a long term problem for Reigns. Fatu is a different kind of beast and could give Reigns a real problem.

**Overall Rating:** B. You had a pair of good to awesome matches and a big angle in the end to make the show work rather well. Reigns being back is still the biggest story on the show but at least Rhodes vs. Owens got a bit of a boost of its own. This show continues to feel about a few big things mixed with a few more minor things, but it's a formula that works well, especially when you have two matches that were quite the successes.

### Results

Carmelo Hayes b. Andrade – Rollup

Blair Davenport b. Naomi – Knee to the face

Kevin Owens b. Grayson Waller – Stunner

Street Profits b. DIY – Doomsday Blockbuster to Gargano

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# Smackdown – August 9, 2024: Yeah They Remember Him

## Smackdown

Date: August 9, 2024

Location: BOK Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We're done with Summerslam and that means we are in for the Smackdown return of Roman Reigns, who showed up at the end of the show and took out Solo Sikoa. That should be the start of the Bloodline Civil War and there is a good chance it will be the top story around here for a long time. Other than that, Bash In Berlin is just over three weeks away and we're going to need a card. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the Summerslam main event, with Cody Rhodes defeating Solo Sikoa with an assist from the returning Roman Reigns. That was an amazing reaction when Reigns showed up because you knew it was a huge deal.

Here is Rhodes to get things going. He gets straight to the point by saying he doesn't want to dwell on the past because it's all about the future. Rhodes has been thinking about who he wants to defend the title against at Bash In Berlin...and

here is the Bloodline to interrupt (minus Jacob Fatu and with Tonga Loa's eye patch on the opposite eye than last week for some reason). Sikoa blames Roman Reigns for the loss at Summerslam and wants another shot at the title.

Rhodes says Sikoa couldn't get the job done and got Jacob Fatu hurt on top of that, so no chance is he getting another shot. Cue Kevin Owens with a pair of chairs to send the Bloodline running. Owens goes to leave but Rhodes wants to talk to him. Rhodes was going to give Owens the title shot, but Owens says he doesn't have the win/loss record to warrant that shot. That doesn't work for Rhodes, who is going to talk to Nick Aldis about the match because Owens deserves it. That's fine enough for a one off World Title match.

The Street Profits want the Tag Team Titles back. And the smoke.

#### A-Town Down Under vs. Street Profits

This is a qualifying match for some kind of a #1 contenders match and B-Fab is here with the Profits. Dawkins gets jumped in the wrong corner to start and Waller sends Ford into the barricade on the floor. Back up and Dawkins unloads on Theory in the corner, only to get sent outside as well. Theory goes to yell at B-Fab and gets dropped by a flipping Ford dive as we take a break.

We come back with Theory hitting his rolling dropkick and not seeming pleased by Waller tagging himself in. That's broken up and the diving tag brings in Ford to pick the pace way up. A flapjack gets two on Waller, who avoids a frog splash and clotheslines Ford into the corner. Ford superkicks Waller on the floor, setting up Dawkins' Pounce over the barricade. Back in and the Doomsday Blockbuster finishes Theory at 7:13.

**Rating:** C+. It was a completely acceptable match and that's all it needed to be, as the Profits could make for a good set of first victims for the Bloodline's title reign. The Profits

haven't been doing as much lately but with Bobby Lashley gone, they might be able to get back to what made them work in the first place. The division still needs some fresh blood though, as it still feels like the same teams are always around.

Nick Aldis is with Kevin Owens and Cody Rhodes, with Owens still not wanting the title shot. Aldis is going to talk to Roman Reigns about the title match, which doesn't sit well with Owens. He goes on a rant about how Reigns doesn't deserve it, which is enough for Aldis to give Owens the title shot.

We look at Nia Jax beating Bayley to win the Smackdown Women's Title.

Tiffany Stratton is planning Jax's championship celebration. Pretty Deadly comes in to ask if she can plan the celebration for when they win the Tag Team Titles. Stratton doesn't have time for this but here are Chelsea Green and Piper Niven to interrupt her. Green doesn't like Stratton's outfit but Stratton says Green must have a ladder to fall off of. Outfit insults ensue.

We look at Blair Davenport costing Bianca Belair and Jade Cargill the Women's Tag Team Titles last week.

### Jade Cargill vs. Alba Fyre

Bianca Belair and Isla Dawn are here too. Fyre can't get very far with a waistlock to start and a sunset flip attempt is easily blocked as well. A springboard tornado DDT works a bit better and Fyre grabs a Black Widow of all things. Cargill muscles her way out and Jaded finishes Fyre at 2:02.

Post match Blair Davenport comes in for the 3-2 beatdown but Naomi makes the save.

We look back at LA Knight winning the US Title at Summerslam.

Here is Knight, with new music, for a chat. The fans are rather pleased to see him and Knight seems rather pleased with

their pleasure. Knight has been asked if it felt sweet to beat Logan Paul in his hometown, which gives him a YOU DESERVE IT chant. Beating Paul in his hometown didn't matter, but you can call him champ, YEAH. He can't stop being the US Champion but here is Santos Escobar, with Legado del Fantasma, to cut him off.

Fans: "YOU SUCK!" Escobar: "No you suck. And you suck sir." Escobar doesn't buy him as a champion and it is just an opening act to Escobar's reign with that title. Knight says he didn't hear a word of that because everyone in Tulsa was telling Escobar that he sucks. Escobar getting a shot is fine, but he has to win this (scheduled) #1 contenders match first.

Giovanni Vinci is coming to Smackdown and looks to be the version he was back on NXT (living the rich life etc).

#### Santos Escobar vs. Andrade

For a future US Title shot and Legado del Fantasma is here with Escobar. We're joined in progress with Andrade flipping over him and hitting a clothesline. Legado gets in a cheap shot though, allowing Escobar to nail a jumping knee for two. Cue Apollo Crews and Baron Corbin to cut Legado off though, with Escobar taking Andrade outside and sending him into the post. Back in and a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker sets up an armbar on Andrade. They go up top and fight over a superplex until Andrade settles for a sunset bomb to send us to a break.

Back with Andrade hitting a running forearm to put Escobar down. A moonsault to the floor takes Escobar down again and a high crossbody gives Andrade two. Three Amigos give Andrade two more and they go up top for a slugout. Escobar's super poisonrana gets two but Escobar knocks him down and hits the double moonsault for the same. Cue Carmelo Hayes for a distraction, though Andrade hits the spinning elbow for two anyway. Back up and Hayes pulls Escobar out of the corner to avoid the double knees, allowing Escobar to roll him up with

tights for the pin at 11:48.

**Rating:** B-. I was getting into this and they did a nice job by having the first false finish with Hayes getting involved. Escobar getting the title shot makes sense as he has a history with Knight, but it's nice to see him having to win a match instead of just having it handed to him. That being said, Andrade had been getting some momentum in recent weeks and the loss here kills a good bit of that off.

We look at the Bloodline beating DIY to win the Tag Team Titles.

DIY is ready to become #1 contenders to get their titles back.

Tribute video to Kevin Sullivan.

A-Town Down Under yell at Nick Aldis and get Waller a match against Kevin Owens next week.

### DIY vs. Pretty Deadly

#1 contenders qualifying match. Wilson takes Gargano into the corner to start and it's already time for a standoff. DIY sends them outside but the dives are cut off. The posing is broken up though and we take an early break. Back with Gargano avoiding a charge in the corner, allowing the tag off to Ciampa. A double powerbomb gets two on Prince but the Shatter Machine is broken up as everything breaks down. Wilson elbows Ciampa in the face but Gargano's slingshot spear cuts off Spilled Milk. The Shatter Machine into Meet In The Middle finishes Prince at 7:10.

**Rating:** C+. Again there is only so much that can be done when you have a break in the middle of a seven minute match, but at least the right team won. DIY should still be in the title picture as the former champions, though I'm not sure I see the need for them to get another title shot after the beating they took. At the same time, DIY could use a win of any kind sooner

than later. If nothing else, the musical needs the attention.

Solo Sikoa is told someone isn't here.

Here is the Bloodline for a chat. Solo Sikoa requests acknowledgments and reminds us that he is the Tribal Chief now. If Roman Reigns wants the leis back, come get them. Cue Reigns, who wastes no time in taking out Tama Tonga and Tonga Loa. Reigns gets in the ring for the showdown with Sikoa and the brawl is on with the Superman Punch dropping Sikoa. Reigns retrieves the leis but the Tongans jump him, only to have Reigns fight back. Sikoa gets away with the leis before Reigns spears Tama through the barricade and chairs Loa down to end the show.

Reigns being around makes anything feel important but this beatdown showed that Jacob Fatu is really necessary. With Reigns running through the Tonga's in short order, Sikoa is going to need his big monster to give Reigns a real problem on the way to the showdown with Reigns.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This show was in a weird spot as it had to deal with the fallout from Summerslam while also starting the build towards Bash In Berlin in the span of two hours. The wrestling was mostly in the middle, but they set some things up for the future and gave us a big moment at the end. It really isn't a show you need to see, but it did what it needed to do.

### Results

Street Profits b. A-Town Down Under – Doomsday Blockbuster to Theory

Jade Cargill b. Alba Fyre – Jaded

Santos Escobar b. Andrade – Rollup with tights

DIY b. Pretty Deadly – Meet In The Middle to Prince



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# Smackdown – July 12, 2024: One Of Those Shows

## Smackdown

Date: July 12, 2024

Location: DCU Center, Worcester, Massachusetts

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We are done with Money In The Bank and the main Smackdown stories are Tiffany Stratton winning the women's briefcase and Solo Sikoa pinning Cody Rhodes in the main event. The latter seems likely to be the setup for the Smackdown World Title match at Summerslam but we have a few weeks to get there. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of the Bloodline defeating Cody Rhodes, Randy Orton and Kevin Owens at Money In The Bank.

Here is Tiffany Stratton to get things going. Stratton says it

is officially Tiffy Time as she has won the briefcase and Trish Stratus isn't here to ruin her moment again. The fans are REALLY into this as Stratton threatens all three Women's Champions but here is Bayley to interrupt. She is impressed with Stratton living up to the expectations and reminds us that she won the briefcase in 2019. Stratton says that was a million years ago and brags about her rapid success.

Bayley threatens her against cashing in but here is Nia Jax to remind us that she is getting the title shot at Summerslam. Bayley says she isn't a hugger anymore because she is the Royal Rumble winner and Women's Champion so Jax isn't going to beat her. However, just in case she does, Stratton might be there to cash in. Jax shrugs that off and says Bayley is going to be the victim at Summerslam. Stratton cuts off Bayley but Michin runs in with a kendo stick for the save. That's a nice tease of Stratton cashing in on Jax later on, though we have to get to Summerslam before that can happen.

Chelsea Green, in a neck brace, with Piper Niven, is waiting to yell at Nick Aldis.

### Michin vs. Nia Jax

Tiffany Stratton and Bayley are here too. Michin strikes away to start but a tornado DDT is easily blocked. The running hip attack in the corner hits Michin and we hit the cobra clutch. Jax sends her flying and hits a running splash in the corner before dropping Michin face first onto the apron.

We take a break and come back with Jax powering out of a guillotine choke to leave both of them down. Back up and a middle rope hurricanrana drops Jax but Stratton and Bayley get into it on the floor. The distraction lets Jax grab the kendo stick but Michin reverses into a tornado DDT. Not that it matters as Jax hits the Annihilator for the pin at 9:25.

**Rating:** C+. This was Jax getting to wreck someone else before her title match in a few weeks. That is something that works

well most of the time and Jax is as much of a monster as you're going to have these days. Michin is someone else who can be heated up for something like this without being used in a bit spot, which is a valuable asset to have around.

Post match Bayley goes after Jax but Stratton gets in a briefcase shot to cut her off. Jax drops the big leg on Bayley and goes to leave...so Stratton teases cashing in. That's cut off by a quick glare from Jax, who isn't happy.

The Bloodline is fine with their recent violence, even if it didn't need to be that way. Tonight, everyone will acknowledge Solo Sikoa.

Earlier today, Andrade was having a sitdown interview about his performance in the Money In The Bank when Carmelo Hayes interrupted. Hayes wondered why he wasn't getting more attention, so Andrade said he was next.

#### Angel/Berto vs. Baron Corbin/Apollo Crews

The rest of Legado del Fantasma is here as Corbin launches Crews onto everyone else to start fast. Corbin clotheslines Berto and hands it off to Crews, who gets stomped down in the corner. Everything breaks down and the villains are sent outside as we take a break. Back with the Garza Special not quite connecting so Berto comes in for a springboard spinning kick to the head.

Corbin Death Valley Drivers his way out of trouble though and it's off to Crews vs. Angel. Everything breaks down and Corbin has to drop an interfering Santos Escobar. The referee yells at Corbin and the distraction lets Escobar knee Crews in the face. Garza grab the Wing Clipper for the pin at 8:01.

**Rating:** C. Not much to this one as the makeshift team loses to the established one, even with some interference. I'm not sure how much of a point there is to this story, but the interesting thing is Corbin. After turning things around in

NXT, he has barely been a thing on the main roster, again making me wonder why he was brought back in the first place.

Pretty Deadly interrupts Chelsea Green and Piper Niven, as they need to talk to Nick Aldis about Pretty Deadly: The Musical! They literally get in line behind Green and Niven when LA Knight comes out of the office, carrying a contract.

Randy Orton is in the back with Cody Rhodes and talks about how he has Rhodes' back tonight, even if Kevin Owens isn't here tonight. Orton seems to hint that he is coming for the title when the Bloodline stuff is over.

Here is LA Knight for a chat. He isn't Mr. Money In The Bank, but we do see him pinning US Champion Logan Paul to qualify for the ladder match in the first place. That brings him to the contract in his hands, which is for a US Title shot at Summerslam. Both he and Nick Aldis have signed it but Paul hasn't, because he isn't here. Again. No worries though because Knight will get him to sign and then take that belt (yes belt) at Summerslam.

Video on Blair Davenport.

### Naomi vs. Blair Davenport

Davenport shoulders her down to start but Naomi slides underneath a clothesline and grabs a headlock. Naomi sends her into the corner for a running dropkick and the splits splash gets two. Back up and Davenport gets in a stomp to Naomi's bad shoulder, which is posted hard as we take a break. We come back with Davenport twisting the arm around again and hitting a low superkick for two. Naomi fights back and gets two off a hurricanrana driver. They trade rollups for some near falls until Naomi hits a Bubba Bomb for the pin at 7:26.

**Rating:** C. Davenport hasn't done much for me either in NXT or on the main roster and that was the case again here. She's just kind of a generic villain who attacks the heroes before

being dispatched. I need a bit more than that, especially with the amount of depth that the division has right now.

We look at DIY winning the Tag Team Titles last week.

Naomi runs into Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair. They walk down the hall, where Cargill says Nick Aldis isn't here tonight. Everyone standing outside his office (Why does he have one if he isn't here?) overhears and storm off. Blair Davenport comes in and shakes Naomi's hand. Chelsea Green and Piper Niven come in to rant, allowing Davenport to jump Naomi from behind.

### Tag Team Titles: DIY vs. A-Town Down Under

A-Town Down Under is challenging in a rematch from last week. Ciampa chases Waller outside to start and they all get inside, where the champs hit stereo dropkicks. Waller shoves Theory out of the way though and takes over on Ciampa as we take a break. Back with Waller hammering Ciampa down and handing it back to Theory, who gets dropkicked out of the air.

The tag brings Gargano in to clean house, including the slingshot spear for two on Theory. Everything breaks down and Ciampa rolls Theory up, with Waller making the save off a Downward Spiral. Ciampa ducks Meet In The Middle and Waller knees Theory by mistake. The Shatter Machine and Meet In The Middle finishes Waller to retain at 7:15.

**Rating:** C+. This felt like a way to wrap things up between these teams for good and that's all it needed to be. DIY still feel like a pair of underdogs so giving them a win like this, even with the villains messing up, is a good thing. They'll need some fresh challengers, while the villains seem like they could be on their way to splitting up.

Post match Jacob Fatu runs in to wreck DIY, including a pair of awesome moonsaults. Cue the rest of the Bloodline and, post break, Solo Sikoa wants to be acknowledged. The fans want Roman but Sikoa talks about the people who have refused to

acknowledge him. Jimmy Uso, Paul Heyman and Roman Reigns refused, but Reigns will if he wants to come back. Now it is Cody Rhodes' turn, so here is Cody to interrupt.

Cody says he'll have to speak to Nick Aldis, but you can more or less guarantee the title match is on against Sikoa at Summerslam. Cody is ready to fight tonight so the Bloodline surrounds him, meaning the fight is on. Randy Orton runs in for the save but the numbers game gets the better of him. Cody gets tied in the ropes and Orton is TripleBombed through the announcers' table. The Bloodline poses to end the show. Cody vs. Sikoa felt all but set and now it more or less is all but set, so...progress?

**Overall Rating:** C. With just a few weeks to go before Summerslam, this was the kind of show that they needed to have, even if it wasn't that great. While the matches aren't officially set, they're all but guaranteed and that is good enough. That being said, it's a show you absolutely did not need to watch, which is going to happen occasionally.

### Results

Nia Jax b. Michin – Annihilator

Angel/Berto b. Apollo Crews/Baron Corbin – Wing Clipper to Crews

Naomi b. Blair Davenport – Bubba Bomb

DIY b. A-Town Down Under – Meet In The Middle to Waller

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# Smackdown – June 28, 2024: I Believe They Call Those Battle Lines

## Smackdown

Date: June 28, 2024

Location: Madison Square Garden, New York City, New York

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're in the World's Most Famous Arena and it could be interesting to see what that means for the new version of WWE. The big story coming out of last week's show is the debut of Jacob Fatu as the Bloodline is looking stronger than ever. That could make for some serious trouble for Cody Rhodes/Kevin Owens/Randy Orton, who are facing the Bloodline at Money In The Bank. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a look back at last week's Bloodline ordeal, with Solo Sikoa suggesting that Roman Reigns isn't coming back and then the debut of Jacob Fatu as a wrecking ball.

The Bloodline, minus Jacob Fatu, arrives. Paul Heyman asks where Fatu is but gets no answer as Solo Sikoa and the Tongans come to the ring for a chat. Cody Rhodes, Kevin Owens and Randy Orton aren't far behind and the brawl is on. Owens hits a huge Swanton off some equipment to put Sikoa through a table

as Nick Aldis and security come out to break it up. Hot start to the show here.

Post break Aldis can't get the good guys out of the ring so they beat up security. With security gone, threats are made to the Bloodline. Rhodes talks about how this arena deserves a World Title shot but instead he has to deal with something he ended at Wrestlemania. When he looks at Solo Sikoa, he doesn't see a Tribal Chief, but rather a seat filler. That was a good line.

Post break, we look back at what we just saw.

Nick Aldis has the Cody Rhodes/Kevin Owens/Randy Orton leave the arena.

#### Women's Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Jade Cargill vs. Tiffany Stratton vs. Candice LeRae

Cargill shrugs off some double teaming attempts to start and neckbreakers both of them. A superkick sends Stratton outside and Cargill throws LeRae onto her for the big crash. Cue Nia Jax and we take a break. Back with Bianca Belair at ringside as well and Cargill fighting out of trouble. Stratton avoids a charge to send Cargill outside, where Belair cuts off Jax's stalking. Cue Indi Hartwell to post Cargill, allowing LeRae to grab a rollup for two on Stratton. Not that it matters as Stratton is back up with the Prettiest Moonsault Ever to finish LeRae at 9:08.

**Rating:** C+. They kept this moving and had a good way to avoid Cargill winning while moving Stratton forward. It wasn't exactly a game changing performance from any of them, but it did what it needed to do on the way to the match that matters. Stratton is certainly a contender to win the briefcase and that is exactly where she should be right now.

Bayley and Naomi find Stratton annoying and wonder what happens if Naomi wins Money In The Bank. Blair Davenport comes



in to mock Bayley, with Naomi swearing vengeance.

The Pride comes in to see Nick Aldis, who says they can't fight the Bloodline tonight but they might be able to do it next week. Pretty Deadly returns and suggest a musical but get a match with the Pride instead.

Solo Sikoa tells Paul Heyman that Jacob Fatu isn't here but tonight, Heyman is officially becoming his wise man.

### Men's Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Santos Escobar vs. LA Knight vs. Logan Paul

Non-title and Paul brings Indiana Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton (who helped beat the New York Knicks) to show New York what a real winner looks like (with the feed cutting, suggesting a lot of swearing). It's a brawl to start with Knight getting double teamed down. Paul and Escobar tease a fight but Knight is up again, only to get dropped again. Escobar gets sent outside, leaving Paul to plant Knight and take over. Paul dives onto Knight but gets taken out by Escobar as we take a break.

Back with Escobar hitting a super hurricanrana for two with Paul making a save. Knight slugs away on Paul and DDTs Escobar for two. Knight's spelling elbow is cut off by Escobar so Knight slams him down for the elbow instead. Escobar is back up with a Phantom Driver to Knight, leaving Paul to make the save this time. Knight German superplexes Escobar off the top so Paul drops a Swanton for...two. Haliburton loads up the knuckles but New York Knicks' star Jalen Brunson jumps the barricade for a staredown. The distraction lets Knight roll Paul up for the pin at 12:22.

**Rating:** B-. The NBA stars were a nice touch and made the match/show feel a bit more important. Other than that, this should get Knight into the ladder match, where Paul can cheat him out of the win and likely set up a title match at Summerslam. Escobar not being the designated victim was a nice

surprise, but this was all about Knight vs. Paul.

Post match everyone but Escobar has a staredown, with the villains leaving.

Baron Corbin talks to Apollo Crews, who is happy that Santos Escobar has no chance of being Mr. Money In The Bank. Carmelo Hayes comes in to brag about how he'll win Money In The Bank.

We get a tribute video to Sika.

Andrade talks about what it would mean to win Money In The Bank.

Women's Money In The Bank Qualifying Match: Blair Davenport vs. Naomi vs. Indi Hartwell

Naomi dropkicks them both down to start but a double crossbody is cut off. Davenport tries to get the pin but Hartwell doesn't like it, meaning the alliance lasts all of 18 seconds. They go outside with Davenport taking the other two down as we take a break. Back with Naomi making Hartwell DDT Davenport to leave everyone down for a breather. Naomi hits a spinning middle rope kick to the head to put Davenport down before hitting some running forearms in the corner.

Hartwell gets in a shot of her own and covers both of them for two, with commentary not quite getting why. Back up and they all trade forearms until Naomi knocks Davenport down in the corner. The split legged moonsault misses though and they head outside, with Jade Cargill coming out to jump Hartwell as payback for earlier. Naomi's Bubba Bomb into a rollup finishes Hartwell at 9:28.

**Rating:** C. I wasn't feeling this one as it didn't exactly come off as smooth, with some of the spots just not quite clicking. It's also a bit much to have the qualifying matches be triple threats, as the novelty, or whatever novelty there might be, wearing off quickly. Not the worst match, but it didn't

exactly work.

DIY is ready for their Tag Team Title shot next week. Austin Theory comes in to say he and Grayson Waller will win next week, but Johnny Gargano suggests that Waller is only in this for himself. Waller comes in to jump Gargano but Theory gets him out of there.

Here is the Bloodline for an acknowledgment ceremony. Paul Heyman handles the induction but Solo Sikoa cuts him off and says he's introducing the newest member of the Bloodline: Jacob Fatu, Sikoa's personal enforcer. Sikoa has the Tongans and Fatu acknowledge him, which goes rather quickly. That leaves Heyman, who is rather hesitant. He loads up the lei and says he acknowledges....that Sikoa IS NOT his Tribal Chief.

Sikoa Samoan Spikes Heyman and Fatu adds the top headbutt before a TripleBomb (with Fatu as Reigns) puts Heyman through the announcers' table. Fatu gives Sikoa the lei to end the show. The countdown to Reigns' return continues and now we pretty firmly know which side Heyman is going to be on. I believe that's called the battle lines being drawn.

**Overall Rating:** B-. The opener and ending segment were the good parts of the show, with the rest being more things that needed to be covered rather than all that interesting on its own. That is only going to get you so far and while the show wasn't bad, it was being carried by the Bloodline. Hopefully next week is better, as while this wasn't terrible, it was beneath what Smackdown, and WWE in general, has been doing lately.

### Results

Tiffany Stratton b. Jade Cargill and Candice LeRae – Prettiest Moonsault Ever to LeRae

LA Knight b. Logan Paul and Santos Escobar – Rollup to Paul

Naomi b. Blair Davenport and Indi Hartwell – Rollup to Hartwell

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# Smackdown – May 31, 2024: Needs More Salmon

## Smackdown

Date: May 31, 2024

Location: MVP Arena, Albany, New York

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We are just over two weeks away from Clash At The Castle and the show needs to start coming together. In addition, we still have some fallout from King And Queen Of The Ring, including the official coronation of Queen Nia Jax. Finally, the Bloodline is in action tonight, which feels rather important. Let's get to it.

[Here is King And Queen Of The Ring if you need a recap.](#)

King And Queen Of The Ring recap.

Here is Nick Aldis to introduce Nia Jax for her coronation. Jax brags about the win and demands that Bayley come to the ring right now. Cue Bayley but Piper Niven and Chelsea Green jump her from behind. Bayley gets crushed but Green tells Jax to be ready to face Niven at Summerslam instead. This was to the point and that's what it needed to be.

AJ Styles goes on to see Nick Aldis and asks for some time to say something, but he only wants to say it once. Aldis agrees.

Naomi checks on Bayley in the trainer's room and Bayley is good to go tonight.

### Tommaso Ciampa vs. Austin Theory

Both partners are here too. Ciampa elbows him in the face to start and hammers away, only to walk into a brainbuster onto the knee. Theory gets in some knees in the corner and a hanging neckbreaker to the floor puts Ciampa down again as we take a break. Back with Ciampa fighting out of a chinlock but getting elbowed in the face for his efforts.

Ciampa fights up again and hits a hard clothesline, setting up a reverse DDT for two. Theory gets in another shot but A Town Down is blocked. Waller goes to yell at commentary for some reason and seems to claim credit for Theory's success. That allows the distracted Ciampa to roll Theory up for the pin at 8:45.

**Rating:** C+. We continue the fairly slow build towards DIY challenging for the Tag Team Titles, though the champs having some issues makes it a bit more interesting. The idea of "tag teams in singles matches" has been done for years and it's only going to get them so far. For now though, it's better than DIY losing another match.

Naomi comes in to see Nick Aldis and, after a mini argument with Blair Davenport, gets a tag match with Bayley against Chelsea Green and Piper Niven. With the women gone, LA Knight

comes in to ask if Aldis knows where he can find Logan Paul. Well that's interesting.

We look at Cody Rhodes defeating Logan Paul to retain the WWE Universal Title at King And Queen Of The Ring.

LA Knight says Logan Paul isn't here this week, but Knight IS here, so he'll make it clear: he wants the US Title. Carmelo Hayes comes in to suggest he's a better candidate for a title shot.

### Andrade vs. Apollo Crews

Earlier today, Andrade turned down an invitation to Legado del Fantasma. Andrade snaps off a dropkick to start and slowly stomps away but here is Angel for a distraction. A dropkick sends Andrade to the floor and us to a break. Back with Andrade hitting a high crossbody to leave both of them down. Andrade strikes away and the running knees gives hit Crews for two. Crews is back with the gorilla press drop into the standing moonsault for two. Andrade isn't having this and elbows him in the face, setting up the double underhook swinging DDT for the pin at 7:04.

**Rating:** C+. This was a match where the commercial took away so much of the energy, as there is only so much you can do with seven minutes including a break. Crews' athleticism continues to be impressive but his ship has long since sailed. As for Andrade, a feud with Legado is better than nothing, but it's not the most thrilling concept.

Post match Andrade walks past Legado del Fantasma so Angel seems ready to deal with this.

Solo Sikoa tells the Bloodline to deal with it when Paul Heyman comes in. Heyman has been trying to make things better for the team but he sees random acts of violence with no bigger plan. He thinks they need Cody Rhodes in check for when Roman Reigns comes back but Sikoa says we already do. Heyman:

"With all due respect, who is we?" The answer is cut off by Kevin Owens coming to the ring, with Sikoa telling Heyman to go deal with this. Heyman is starting to snap under the pressure and that opens up a lot of possibilities.

Apollo Crews jumps Angel.

Kevin Owens is in the ring and says he was in Saudi Arabia to help Randy Orton in person. Orton has had his back for weeks now and...here is Paul Heyman to interrupt. Heyman is sounding rather nervous as he says he hopes to come to a mutual understanding with Owens. The fans want Roman but Heyman says no one wants him here more than Heyman himself.

Heyman talks about how Reigns respects Owens but Solo Sikoa and the new members of the Bloodline are going to hurt him. He begs Owens to back off but Owens doesn't quite buy the kind offer. Owens thinks Heyman sees Sikoa as his next cash cow. In four years of fighting the Bloodline, Owens has been superkicked thirty times at once and thrown off high things, but he's never going to stop fighting to get rid of them.

He neither wants nor needs Heyman's help, so Heyman goes on a rant about how he might be trying to redeem himself. Heyman says he is a Hall of Fame wise man and is worried about Sikoa taking over the entire Bloodline SO WHY WILL NO ONE LISTEN TO HIM??? Heyman goes so nuts that he throws the mic and hits Owens, who appears ready to destroy him. Cue the Bloodline but the Street Profits (set to face the Bloodline tonight) run in to even things up. Angelo Dawkins hits a big flip dive to take out the Tongas. And there is Heyman snapping, which is not going to go well for him. I'm not sure how soon Reigns is going to come back, but dang they have a wide open field with this thing and it's great.

### Bloodline vs. Street Profits

Joined in progress with Ford firing off shoulders to Tama in the corner and Dawkins coming in for a double belly to back

suplex. Loa gets in a cheap shot though and hammers away on the floor as Paul Heyman is looking terrified on the floor. A slingshot elbow hits Ford but he gets over for the tag to Dawkins. House is quickly cleaned but it's back to Loa off a blind tag to run Dawkins over. A Saito suplex connects and Dawkins is taken outside for a ram into the announcers' table.

We take a break and come back with Tama hammering away as Heyman is looking even worse. Dawkins manages to suplex his way out of trouble and it's a double tag to bring in Ford and Loa. The Profits take over and grab a Doomsday Blockbuster, with Tama having to make the save. Tama gets in a blind tag so Ford's frog splash to Loa means nothing. Back up and Ford walks into the jumping Downward Spiral for the pin at 12:12.

**Rating:** B-. This was a way to make the Bloodline look good because the Profits are a pretty established team for them to take down. I'm not sure if the feud continues whenever Bobby Lashley is back, but it might be time for the Profits to move on to something else. For now though, the Bloodline looks good and that's what matters.

Indi Hartwell is upset at Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair for injuring Candice LeRae...but not upset enough to agree to face Cargill.

Michin is asked about AJ Styles but Nia Jax interrupts. That doesn't work for Michin, which REALLY does not work for Jax.

#### Chelsea Green/Piper Niven vs. Bayley/Naomi

Green runs from Bayley to start and hands it to Niven, who crushes Bayley in the corner. That doesn't seem to matter much as Bayley fights up and hits a clothesline on Green. Naomi comes in and knocks Green to the floor, with the villains being beaten down as we take a break.

Back with Niven missing an elbow, allowing the tag back to Naomi. A running basement dropkick in the corner sets up a



split legged moonsault, with Niven having to make a save. The Rear View gets two more with Niven making another save with a backsplash. Niven puts Green on top for the pin at 8:30.

**Rating:** C. Another pretty to the point match here, with Niven getting to look strong as we are coming up on a show in her home country. Bayley is going to need a title challenger and putting her in there against Niven for the title could be a heck of a moment. The match was just good enough, with Naomi taking the fall to build Niven up that much more.

LA Knight runs into AJ Styles in the back and says if the rumors are true, he respects Styles. With Knight gone, Styles runs into Cody Rhodes and they shake hands. Styles hugs the OC, who have his back out there tonight.

Here is Styles, with the OC, for his big announcement. Styles talks about how he has dwelt on Nick Aldis saying he had to earn another title shot for a week. At this point in his career, he can't do that though, and we pause for some applause. He just got to have his son's graduation party and it made him wonder how many of them he missed. Maybe it's time he became a phenomenal father. Styles thanks the OC for being there and they do the pose one more time. There's one more thing though, and Styles would like Cody Rhodes out here.

Cue Rhodes, with Styles saying their match at Backlash was one of their best ever. This is still the house that Styles built and Rhodes says they shared their first text after that match. Styles called Rhodes his little bro, but Rhodes says Styles is a good big bro. They have a hug and Rhodes holds Styles' arm up, only for Styles to channel his inner Mark Henry and beat him down.. The Styles Clash from the steps to the floor drops Rhodes to end the show. They weren't exactly hiding what they were going for here and that works well enough, as having another title match between them at Clash will be a fine way to go.

**Overall Rating:** B. This was a show with good enough action, but the main positives came from the storytelling. Odds are we have a Smackdown main event set for Clash, plus Heyman losing his mind and Bayley probably set to defend against Niven. As usual lately, WWE knows how to move things forward while having completely acceptable (at worst) wrestling and that makes for a very easy watch.

### Results

Tommaso Ciampa b. Austin Theory – Rollup

Andrade b. Apollo Crews – Double underhook swinging DDT

Bloodline b. Street Profits – Jumping Downward Spiral to Ford

Piper Niven/Chelsea Green b. Bayley/Naomi – Backsplash to Naomi

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# Smackdown – May 24, 2024: Preview TV

## Smackdown

Date: May 24, 2024

Location: Jeddah Super Dome, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Corey Graves

We're in Saudi Arabia with a taped show before tomorrow's King And Queen Of The Ring. That should make for an interesting show, as we find out the other finalists in both tournaments. WWE has never run a regular TV show from the country before but the crowd should be into things. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a look at where Jeddah is in Saudi Arabia. They did that with Backlash and it's a nice idea.

We see an announcement from earlier this week, with HHH saying that the winners of the King and Queen Of The Ring tournaments will receive World Title shots at Summerslam.

## Queen Of The Ring Tournament Semifinals: Bianca Belair vs. Nia Jax

Lyra Valkyria, facing the winner in the finals, is watching from ringside. Jax powers her down to start but Belair is back up with some running shoulders. Some right hands in the corner rock Jax, who misses a charge and goes shoulder first into the post. Belair adds a big slingshot dive and we take a break.

Back with Belair in trouble and Jax crowning herself with a very small crown. Jax goes after the possibly injured knee with a Stretch Muffler but Belair slips out. A Samoan drop plants Belair for two instead but she's fine enough to get up top or a high crossbody. The knee is banged up on the landing

so Jax knocks her down again. The Annihilator is teased but Belair is right back up with a powerbomb out of the corner for two. Belair's knee won't let her get the KOD and a backplash sets up the Annihilator to finish Belair at 11:15.

**Rating:** C+. They told a story here with the knee and that was good enough for what they needed to do. Jax going against Lyra Valkyria in the finals is a fine way to go, with Valkyria having her David vs. Goliath match. Jax has run through a bunch of stars on the way there (or escaping against Jade Cargill) so she makes sense for the spot in the finals.

Post match Jax talks about buzzing through people, promising to do the same thing to Valkyria tomorrow. She says "buzz/buzzed through" about five times in a minute.

Post break Bianca Belair's knee is banged up when Tiffany Stratton comes in to call her a loser. With Tiffany Stratton gone, Indi Hartwell and Candice LeRae come in to mock her as well. Jade Cargill scares them off and a match is teased.

Here is A-Town Down Under for the Grayson Waller Effect. They waste no time in teasing LA Knight as their guest but Carmelo Hayes interrupts. Hayes thinks they were talking about himself instead of Knight, with Waller agreeing that Hayes is a better guest. The three of them mock various veterans such as Knight, Bobby Lashley and Baron Corbin until Knight interrupts. The beating is on but the Street Profits run in for the save. Sounds six manish.

Video on Blair Davenport.

Street Profits/LA Knight vs. Carmelo Hayes/A-Town Down Under

Hayes and Ford trade wristlocks to start until it's off to Dawkins for a facebuster. Knight comes in so Hayes bails over to the corner for the tag to Theory. Knight fights out of some cheating and hands it back to Dawkins for an enziguri in the corner. A quick dropkick sends Knight outside and Hayes knocks

him down again as we take a break.

Back with Dawkins pulling Hayes out of the air and hitting a t-bone suplex. The tag brings Knight back in to clean house, including the rapid fire stomps in the corner. Hayes blocks the BFT and hits the First 48 as everything breaks down. Knight drives Hayes over the announcers' table, leaving Ford to frog splash Waller for the pin at 9:10.

**Rating:** C+. I can always go for a good six man tag as it lets extra people get in the ring without getting too messy. The Profits get a boost and might be in line for another title shot down the line, which is a good way to keep them strong. At the same time you have Knight vs. Hayes coming up, which is a match both of them need to win. Nice stuff here as they covered a few stories at once.

Yesterday at the King And Queen Of The Ring Kickoff, Logan Paul gave up his brass knuckles.

Cody Rhodes runs into Randy Orton and wishes him luck in the King Of The Ring. Randy: "Thanks Code Man." Orton is apparently confused, as that's Cody Rhodes, not Cody Lambert.

Summerslam in 2026 is going to be two nights. We don't know where Summerslam 2025 is going to be, but we know the 2026 schedule.

Here is Cody Rhodes for a chat but Logan Paul interrupts before he can say a word. Paul says he's smarter than Cody but he doesn't need brass knuckles to win the title tomorrow. Cody accuses him of being a cosplaying scared little kid and thinks Paul is carrying another set of brass knuckles. Apparently Michael Cole has the only set of knuckles Paul has ever had, but Cody suggests Paul get checked by a referee.

Paul says check Cody first, with the referee saying Cody is clean. Paul on the other hand has brass knuckles, but says these aren't even his pants. That makes Paul leave, saying he

doesn't need them to win anyway. Cody cuts him off and says the knuckles are the difference between them. Paul will do anything to win but Cody wants to be the best. He believes Paul is a wrestler but until he gives it his all, he'll never be on Cody's level. Giving Paul something to think about is interesting, as that could be some long term seed planting.

Randy Orton is ready for Tama Tonga and isn't worried about facing the numbers advantage from the Bloodline.

Bayley runs into Nia Jax, who tells her to keep the title clean until Summerslam.

The Street Profits want the Tag Team Titles but DIY come in to say they want the titles. Tommaso Ciampa even pours out the cup.

### Bayley vs. Chelsea Green

Non-title and Piper Niven is here with Green. An early shot staggers Bayley and Green hits a missile dropkick for two. Bayley is sent outside early and we take a quick break. Back with Green getting two off a Rough Ryder but Bayley hits the Rose Plant for the pin at 4:44. We might have seen a minute and a half of the match.

Post match Niven wrecks Bayley.

AJ Styles asks Nick Aldis for one more World Title shot but Aldis can't do it. Styles has to earn the shot and that takes time. Styles says he doesn't have time, but Aldis can't help.

Video on Andrade, who is ready to show us who he is.

Legado del Fantasma doesn't like Andrade.

Paul Heyman talks to Solo Sikoa and reminds him that Tanga Loa isn't here tonight due to travel restrictions. Sikoa says he knows he's bringing dangerous people into the Bloodline, but he's in charge until Roman Reigns comes back. If Heyman has

problems with that, he needs to fix them himself. Heyman brings up a problem with Tama Tonga, who pops up and scares Heyman half to death. Tama is ready to win the King Of The Ring.

King And Queen Of The Ring rundown.

### King Of The Ring Semifinals: Randy Orton vs. Tama Tonga

Gunther is watching in the front row and Solo Sikoa/Paul Heyman are here too. Tonga slugs away in the corner to start but Orton is back with a fall away slam. They head outside where Tonga flips out of a drop onto the announcers' table and takes out Orton's knee as we take a break.

Back with Tonga working on the knee, including another shot to set up a sleeper. Orton breaks that up with a drive into the corner but Tonga grabs it again. Another break lets Orton snap off the powerslam but the knee gives out again. The hanging DDT is countered with a backdrop to the floor, where Orton drops Tonga onto the announcers' table. Back in and the hanging DDT connects but Sikoa gets up on the apron. That's broken up in a hurry and the RKO gives Orton the pin at 11:07.

**Rating:** B-. While I'm not surprised that Orton won, I'm a bit surprised that he won that way. Tonga losing clean so soon is a little weird, though losing to Orton is hardly some career killer. There was no way it would be Gunther vs. Tonga for the finals though, so it was more a matter of how Orton would get there rather than how he would get there.

Post match Sikoa jumps Orton but Kevin Owens runs in for the save.

**Overall Rating:** B-. The wrestling wasn't quite as hot this week but it helped that the show had a list of things it needed to accomplish. This show took care of the two tournament finals and the Women's Tag Team Title match (on the apparently two hour long Kickoff Show, because that's a thing)

while also setting up some things for later. In other words, it's a WWE show under the HHH formula and as a result, it went pretty well. Tomorrow is what matters, and for once this show had a direct hand in setting that up.

### Results

Nia Jax b. Bianca Belair – Annihilator

LA Knight/Street Profits b. A-Town Down Under/Carmelo Hayes – Frog splash to Waller

Bayley b. Chelsea Green – Rose Plant

Randy Orton b. Tama Tonga – RK0

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# **Smackdown – May 10, 2024: Designed For Awesome**

### Smackdown

Date: May 10, 2024



Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We are done with Backlash and have about two weeks to go before King And Queen Of The Ring. That means it's time to work on both tournaments, but I'm sure there will be some other matches on the show. Those could use a start as well and hopefully we get some of that covered this week. Let's get to it.

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

We open with along Backlash recap.

Here is Nick Aldis in the ring to get things going and he bring out Cody Rhodes for a chat. Aldis knows that Cody wants to defend against the best and Cody's next challenger has been determined. Cody is game so here is...Logan Paul. Cody thinks he knows what Paul wants to talk about and yes it would be a champion vs. champion match to kick off the Logan Paul Levesque Era (that's clever).

Paul talks about a fan having a sign in the crowd saying it's his birthday, with Paul saying congratulations in meeting a superstar, as in himself. Cody is cool too, but the fans think Paul's Prime drink sucks. After listing off the nutritional facts of Prime, Paul asks how Cody can finish the story when it isn't his story.

Cody: "I bet a lot of people stand across from you and say "what a dumba\*\*." Cody praises Paul's accomplishments and thinks winning the US Title would make him a Grand Slam Champion. The problem is Paul can't win a match without going for those brass knuckles and he'll find out reality at King And Queen Of The Ring. There's no story between them but the title match is in about two weeks so setting things up that fast is a smart way to go.

AJ Styles blames his loss to Cody Rhodes on the French fans at

Backlash. Now he's ready to win the King Of The Ring tournament to get closer to a title shot.

### Queen Of The Ring First Round: Nia Jax vs. Naomi

Jax runs her over to start but Naomi manages to avoid a charge. Naomi kicks her out to the floor but gets planted with a Samoan drop to crush her rather hard. We take a break and come back with Jax draping her over the top rope, only to get sunset flipped. Jax's sitdown splash misses and Naomi scores with a Disaster Kick of all things. The split legged moonsault gets two and Jax is sat up top for a super hurricanrana (that was impressive) for the same. That's enough for Jax, who hits a hard shoulder and drops the leg. The Annihilator finishes Naomi at 10:07.

**Rating:** C+. This was about what you would expect, as Naomi was doing her athletic stuff and sticking and running until Jax caught her with the power game. Jax going forward is the right move as someone beating her would make for a special moment. Or she could win the whole thing to give her something else to brag about, because she doesn't do it enough already.

Baron Corbin is glad to be back after finding himself in NXT. Carmelo Hayes comes in to say he's going to send him running like Bobby Lashley (who is out injured).

Video on DIY, who want the tag Team Titles.

### King Of The Ring First Round: Baron Corbin vs. Carmelo Hayes

Corbin as a good guy is bizarre. Hayes takes him down to start and kicks him in the back, earning one heck of a right hand. Corbin knocks him outside and we take an early break. Back with Corbin elbowing away in the corner but getting dropped onto the turnbuckle. There's a springboard clothesline to drop Corbin again but he's back up with a Death Valley Driver. A brainbuster gives Corbin two but Hayes manages to grab the First 48. Corbin comes back with a clothesline and a suplex

into a cutter for two...but Hayes small packages him for the pin at 6:30.

**Rating:** C+. They didn't have much time here but dang they picked a good bit into it. Corbin losing here is a weird choice as he started fast and the fans were into him. Hayes needed a win coming off his loss to Cody Rhodes during the Draft, which makes me wonder why these two were put together in the first place.

Bayley is interested to see how far Jade Cargill can go in the Queen Of The Ring. Chelsea Green pops in to say Piper Niven will take Cargill out in the first round.

Randy Orton wants to win the King Of The Ring and it starts with an RKO to AJ Styles. He hasn't forgotten about Tama Tonga though, as they might be meeting in the tournament. An angry Orton can make for some good moments and that is what we seem to be seeing here.

#### Queen Of The Ring First Round: Jade Cargill vs. Piper Niven

Chelsea Green is here with Niven. They yell at each other to start before Niven's running shoulder doesn't get her anywhere. Cargill's shoulder works far better but she charges into something like a Rock Bottom out of the corner. A backsplash crushes Cargill as commentary is already sick of Green's shouting. Back in and Cargill staggers her with a headbutt, setting up a Blue Thunder Bomb. Niven trips her down in the corner and hits the Cannonball, only to take too long going up. Cargill pulls her back down, hits a pump kick, and grabs Jaded for the pin at 5:15.

**Rating:** C+. This is the kind of match that makes Cargill look all the more impressive, as she was knocked around by the power before going into Beast Mode to win in the end. It was a good showcase for her, but Niven deserves credit of her own. She's a good power wrestler who knows how to use her size to her advantage. Nice stuff here, with Cargill winning with the

power display that makes her look even better.

Cargill runs into Bianca Belair as she leaves and dancing ensues.

Shinsuke Nakamura is here to become the pinnacle of Smackdown and no one is safe.

### Queen Of The Ring First Round: Candice LeRae vs. Bianca Belair

Indi Hartwell is here with LeRae. They start fast with LeRae being sent outside, where a hurricanrana is blocked. Hartwell gets in a cheap shot though and LeRae starts in with some shots on the knee. Belair grabs a suplex but the knee gives out, though it's fine enough for her to hit the KOD for the pin at 2:55.

We look at Tanga Loa debuting at Backlash as the newest member of the Bloodline.

Paul Heyman comes in to see the rest of the Bloodline, where he mentions that Solo Sikoa is making decisions without Roman Reigns. Sikoa brings up Heyman pulling Reigns out of the Draft, resulting in them being drafted in the third round. Sikoa has talked to Reigns, and he is in charge, with Heyman as his wise man. An awkward hug ensues. There's your big moment, as Reigns can either come back and correct the wrong he started or say "that's not what I said" or something else entirely. For now though, we should be in for a different Bloodline and that's a cool concept.

Video on Andrade.

### King Of The Ring First Round: Angelo Dawkins vs. Tama Tonga

Montez Ford and the rest of the Bloodline are here too (including Tonga, not Tanga, Loa). Tonga starts fast and knocks him into the corner but Dawkins hits a heck of a running shoulder. Ford goes after the Bloodline and Dawkins hits a Sky High for two. The Bloodline takes out Ford though

and a jumping Downward Spiral finishes Dawkins at 2:11. Bad finisher aside, Tama gave up a bit more offense than I would have bet on here.

Post match Dawkins gets Spiked as well, leaving Paul Heyman looking worried.

Video on Blair Davenport.

### King Of The Ring First Round: AJ Styles vs. Randy Orton

Orton wastes no time in clotheslining him to the floor and we take a break about thirty seconds in. Back with Orton raining down right hands in the corner but Styles scores with a dropkick. They head outside, where Orton drops him onto the barricade but can't hit the hanging DDT.

He can however drop Styles onto the announcers' table and then does it again for a bonus. Back in and Styles is ok enough to go after the knee and we take another break. We come back again with Orton escaping a Calf Crusher attempt and kicking him in the chest. Orton sends him to the apron, where the bad leg is wrapped around the ropes.

The Phenomenal Forearm is broken up but Styles grabs the Calf Crusher, with Orton grabbing a chinlock of all things for the break. With that broken up, Orton hits the hanging DDT but Styles is back with the Phenomenal Forearm. Orton grabs the rope so Styles loads up the Styles Clash, only to be reversed into the RKO for the quick pin at 17:29.

**Rating:** B. It might not have been a classic or anything but these two on their worst day are going to have a good match. They did well here, with Orton going forward and Styles moving on to find someone else to make look good. It's a pairing that could have a good match in their sleep and it was a smart move to put them together in a spot like this.

**Overall Rating:** B. The good thing about having a show built

around two tournaments, especially in the first round, is WWE is able to pick a bunch of awesome, or at least intriguing, matches for the first week. That is what we had here, with some fun stuff and impressive performances. Throw in setting the Bloodline in its new direction and this was a solid as well as important edition of Smackdown.

### Results

Nia Jax b. Naomi – Annihilator

Carmelo Hayes b. Baron Corbin – Small package

Jade Cargill b. Piper Niven – Jaded

Bianca Belair b. Candice LeRae – KOD

Tama Tonga b. Angelo Dawkins – Jumping Downward Spiral

Randy Orton b. AJ Styles – RK0

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# NXT LVL Up – April 12, 2024: They Did The Thing

## NXT LVL Up

Date: April 12, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Stand & Deliver and that means it is time to change pretty much nothing around here. Last week's show saw something of a grudge match between Je'Von Evans and Scripts, albeit with some partners. Somehow that was only the second ever six man tag in the history of LVL Up, so maybe we can get another treat here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## Tavion Heights vs. Uriah Connors

The bigger Heights lips him into the corner to start and wrestles to the mat without much effort. Some shots to the face stagger Heights and Connors sends him outside for a crash. Back in and Connors stomps away, setting up an arm crank. Connors grabs a choke over the ropes, only to have Heights power up into an electric chair for the break. Back up and the spinning belly to belly gives Heights the pin at 5:03.

**Rating:** C. NXT needs to bring up some new people and Heights might as well be one of them. He has separated himself from the pack around here a little bit and that suplex is a good finisher. Connors got in some offense of his own but this was more about Heights, which should be the case at the moment.

Kendal Grey and Carlee Bright are ready to try their best against Blair Davenport and Stevie Turner.

## Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport vs. Kendal Grey/Carlee Bright

Turner snapmares Bright down to start but Bright is right back up with a wristlock. Grey comes in to work on Davenport's arm but she gets taken into the villains' corner. Bright manages to flip over Davenport though and it's Grey coming in for an assisted top rope splash. That doesn't work for Davenport, who brings Grey into the corner for a Backstabber from Turner.

Davenport's backbreaker gets two on Grey and some forearms to the back make it even worse. Grey quickly powers out of a half crab though and the tag brings Bright back in to clean house. Bright headscissors Davenport into a splash, only to have Davenport come right back with the Falcon Arrow for the pin at 6:14.

**Rating:** C. The biggest thing here was finding out that Turner was still employed. She has barely done anything in months and I'm not sure why. Her futuristic deal isn't that bad and she can hang in the ring, but it has never come close to clicking for her. Maybe that changes, but for now she was just Davenport's partner.

#### Eddy Thorpe vs. Dion Lennox

They fight over wrist control to start (as is so often the case) before an exchange of shoulders goes nowhere. Lennox's dropkick lets him grab a headlock but Thorpe isn't having that. Back up and Thorpe hammers away before putting on an abdominal stretch. With that broken up, Lennox hammers away and hits a clothesline but Thorpe punches him in the face. The impaler DDT finishes for Thorpe at 5:11.

**Rating:** C. Thorpe didn't do much here until the end when he just grabbed his finisher for the win. That's not much of a match but it did make Lennox look good enough in defeat. At some point you have to try something new with someone and that's more or less what happened here. Lennox is going to need more than "he wears glasses to the ring" to stand out though and we seem pretty far off from that.



**Overall Rating:** C. Not their best effort here, with the women's tag probably standing out the most. This was a show where it didn't feel like they were trying and it made the show that much less interesting as a result. Like I've said far too many times, you can just tell when the effort isn't there from WWE (as opposed to the wrestlers, who were trying) and it showed again this week with a pretty lackluster show.

### Results

Tavion Heights b. Uriah Connors – Belly to belly suplex

Stevie Turner/Blair Davenport b. Carlee Bright/Kendal Grey – Falcon Arrow to Bright

Eddy Thorpe b. Dion Lennox – Implant DDT

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