

Thoughts on the CM Punk DVD

Yeah it came out months ago and everyone has seen it, but when have I ever been one to have something up as soon as possible? This is going to be more of a collection of single thoughts instead of a point by point review.

The first part of the DVD focuses on Punk's indy days and how hard he worked and all that jazz. I'll save the reasoning for an I Want To Talk A Little Bit About that (hopefully) will be up this weekend, but the short response to this is "That's nice, now let's let the real wrestlers do their stuff over here." Also those Samoa Joe matches really aren't that great. They're just not.

Punk talking about no one knowing what to do with him is probably a fair point. The early days in ECW were indeed awkward because he didn't have time to do much. You can only get so much out of a four minute match with Little Guido or Justin Credible. He doesn't mention it but he should have gotten a MUCH bigger push in the Extreme Elimination Chamber. Bobby Lashley clearly didn't work long term, but at the time it was fair to say he was a stronger prospect than Punk.

It amuses me greatly that WWE is still trying to convince us that being World Heavyweight Champion means something. I will however agree that he should have been pushed harder as champion and shouldn't have been treated like the third biggest act. The complaints about being beneath Cena vs. Batista on the card are laughable though. That's a legitimate dream match that had been built up for over three years minimum.

Yes Punk should have at least been on the Unforgiven card (sidenote: it's a bad sign that I said "it was in Cleveland" before Punk pointed out that it was in Cleveland. This is at least the second time I've known the city a show was in while watching the documentary.) but Jericho vs. HBK was the feud of the year and far better than anything Punk was doing at the time. Punk's story was that he was an underdog fighting for respect. That's not exactly lighting the world on fire.

Punk talks about not getting to be the face of the company. He also talks about not just burning but blowing up every single bridge he's ever had with a company and being a mean jerk. But I'm sure he isn't pushed as the biggest star because someone doesn't get him right?

He's absolutely right about writers not knowing what's going on in his head. At least have a wrestler's input when you're writing promos if you just have to do it that way. It's why I rarely let people do promos when I wrote OCW. They were my characters and I didn't want people missing the point with them.

The Straight Edge Society could have been a much bigger deal. Luke Gallows and Joey Mercury did it no favors though. Also I was there when the stable debuted which was rather cool. As someone who has never smoked, drank or done any drug whatsoever, I always liked those guys. As for Punk's thoughts on it: I LOVE the mentality of wanting fans to hate you for what you say. That's the old school booking which has worked for years as opposed to whatever tactics heels use today.

Miz was a very well built up heel and should have been in the main event. If Punk had been in his spot, he would have been overshadowed by Rock just as much. That's how wrestling works.

On to the Pipe Bomb. John Cena is indeed the best in the world because he draws more money than anyone does at the moment. He's been the biggest star in wrestling for years because he can be put on a poster or be on ESPN and comes off like the nicest guy you'll ever see. He isn't a, for lack of a better term, punk covered in tattoos who brags about how awesome he is all the time. That's a great look and attitude for wrestling fans in their 20s, but for 43 year old Jim Nelson from Omaha, Punk is someone they'll see on TV, mutter about how stupid kids look these days and keep flipping. You know what's going to make people stop changing the channel? John Cena throwing Big Show on his shoulders and flipping him into the air for an AA.

The best thing about the Pipe Bomb? It lead to a professional wrestling match for the WWE Championship with CM Punk talking about how he was going to pin John Cena 1-2-3 because he's a better wrestler. It didn't lead to some southern belle talking about being in the 1% or what was best for business. The same was true for the Punk vs. Heyman promos and they led to AWESOME matches as a result. That's called hyping a match and it WORKS.

I watched the MITB match again for the History of WWE Championship e-book and it more than holds up. The fans there look like a bunch of girl scouts compared to the ONS 06 crowd though. Note one thing though: for at least part of the match, the fans are chanting LET'S GO CENA/CENA SUCKS.

They're talking about Cena, not Punk, and that's why Cena is Cena and Punk is Punk. Also the line about "we didn't know how that was going to end and that's what makes it great" is as true of a line as anything you'll ever hear about wrestling.

Overall, I liked this quite a bit though I don't agree with Punk on a lot of stuff. He is indeed a huge deal at the moment, but he's not as big as Cena and never will be due to the reasons I've gone over. I love the mentality of being better than you are now though and it's something a lot of people would benefit from. Good stuff and worth seeing though.

Side notes:

Punk looks a lot like Sami Zayn when he wears a hat.

There's a voiceover early on and I thought it sounded like Road Dogg. It was Scott Armstrong, which means I was close.

For those of you unaware, Scott Armstrong is Road Dogg's brother.

Kofi Kingston and CM Punk are some of the most forgettable tag team champions ever.

I still don't buy that Punk wasn't signed at least 24 hours before he cut the Pipe Bomb promo.

The Ferris Bueller's Day Off bit was GREAT.

ECW on Sci-Fi – November 28, 2006: Oh They Knew It Was Going To Suck

ECW on Sci-Fi

Date: November 28, 2006

Location: HSBC Arena, Buffalo, New York

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

It's finally the go home show for December to Dismember which means this is the end of an era in ECW. After this, the last of the terrible ECW stuff ends and we get into the real WWECW, meaning the quality goes way up. The main event tonight is Lashley vs. Big Show, which you would think would have gotten more of a build. Let's get to it.

We open with Heyman, flanked by his security, in the ring to talk about the Chamber. He explains the rules of the match to us including telling us that each pod will contain a weapon. The new information for us tonight is what those weapons will be. The weapons will include a chair, a crowbar, a table, and a barbed wire ball bat and we get a demonstration of each. Oh man they knew this was going to SUCK.

Theme song.

RVD knows he might not walk out of the Chamber but the chance of being ECW Champion again makes the risk worth it.

Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam

Sabu says that he'll sacrifice anything to be ECW Champion. Yeah he talks here, why do you ask? Feeling out process to start until Van Dam takes him down with a monkey flip for two. Sabu wisely grabs a leg but Van Dam arm drags him down for two more. Sabu's top rope rana doesn't work as Rob hangs onto the top rope before scooting down the rope to sit in the middle of it. Sabu tries a springboard dive but Van Dam jumps off the ropes into a cross body in a great midair collision.

We take a break and come back with Van Dam landing on the apron but not being able to suplex Sabu to the apron. Sabu tries a sunset bomb but Van Dam holds the ropes, sending Sabu crashing to the floor. A moonsault over the ropes mostly misses Sabu but Van Dam still gets two off a German suplex. Sabu takes the knee out and hits a springboard legdrop tot he back of Van Dan's head. A slingshot legdrop misses though and Rob connects with Rolling Thunder. Back up and Sabu hits some springboard shots to the face for two but Van Dam blocks a springboard tornado DDT, setting up the Five Star for the pin.

Rating: D. The chemistry was really lacking here for two guys who have worked together as much as these two have. Sabu didn't botch that much stuff so this would be considered a good performance for him. He's so much better when he he keeps the crazy stuff to a minimum but the match never clicked here.

Video on Big Show vs. Lashley.

Hardy Boys vs. Elijah Burke/Sylvester Terkay

Terkay is a big MMA style guy who never did much in America. Jeff and Burke get things going with Hardy taking Elijah down with a headscissors. Off to Matt for a top wristlock won by Matt before Jeff comes back in with a dropkick for two. Terkay comes in and drills Jeff with a slam but misses a hard charge into the post. Matt comes in with a Side Effect for Burke and some clotheslines for Terkay. The Hardys double team Terkay down and hit Poetry in Motion, followed by the Twist/Swanton for the pin.

Rating: D+. Not much to see here but it wasn't terrible. At the end of the day the Hardys were slumming it in ECW until they were ready for their real reunion tour on Raw and Smackdown. The match wasn't anything of note but then again neither were Burke or Terkay in WWE at all.

Post match MNM, the Hardys' opponents on Sunday, run in and lay out the brothers.

Some fans in Augusta (PPV site) are ready for the PPV. There was a press conference which is pathetic given how laughable the PPV has been. Note that there are a total of two matches announced and we're five days from the show.

CM Punk vs. Test

Test pounds him down in the corner to start but Punk fires off forearms of his own. They head to the floor where Test is sent into the post before going back inside for a springboard clothesline from Punk. Test comes back with a tilt-a-whirl slam and a chinlock but Punk sends him to the floor for a suicide dive. Punk sends him into the steps and they fight into the crowd for the double countout.

Rating: D+. If this sounded like it had no transitions and was just move after move, that's exactly what it was. Test was such a generic heel at this point that there wasn't much you could do with him. He reminds me of TNA's Gunner during the period where Gunner was Mr. Intensity. There's nothing to that and it's really hard to get invested in a character like him.

Heyman tries to talk Big Show out of the match with Lashley but Show keeps walking.

We recap the Hardys' match and beatdown by MNM. MNM says that was just a sample of how baller they are. Nitro's words, not mine.

Another video on the Chamber.

Bobby Lashley vs. Big Show

Non-title of course. Lashley pounds away to start but Show comes back with a quick clothesline to take him down. A suplex does the same and Show follows it up with a superkick for no cover. Show continues his slow lumbering offense before going to the middle rope, allowing Lashley to suplex him down. The spear puts Show down but Heyman calls in his security for the DQ.

Rating: D. Big Show was such a disaster at this point and he was in desperate need of some time off to heal up and lose weight. The match was slow and dull with the majority being spent on Big Show walking around and waiting to do anything of note. The match just sucked as a result, much like a lot of ECW stuff around this time.

Test comes in to join in on the beatdown as Big Show hits a chokeslam. Heyman slaps Lashley over and over and Big Show knocks him out with the belt. Show covers him and Heyman counts a pin to end the show.

Overall Rating: F+. Oh man they knew December to Dismember was going to be terrible. Literally there are two matches announced and the rest of the show isn't going to be announced until the show itself. As I said, the show is going to be a turning point for the brand and things won't be the same afterwards. This show was terrible with everything being about the Chamber which did nothing to make me interested in the show at all. Absolutely awful all around with nothing of value at all.

Here's December to Dismember if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2010/12/25/merry-christmas-have-some-december-to-dismember/>

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