

# Main Event – June 15, 2017: It Didn't Work Before So Let's Do It Again

## Main Event

Date: June 15, 2017

Location: Cajundome, Lafayette, Louisiana

Commentators: Corey Graves, Vic Joseph

It's back to what should be the quintessential recap show as it's not like people come here for the original wrestling content. Raw had one heck of a fight on Monday night and you have to imagine that's going to be a big focal point of this show. We're about three weeks away from Great Balls of Fire and that's not the worst thing in the world. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### Curt Hawkins vs. Curtis Axel

Gah this always gets annoying with first names. Axel grabs a headlock to start and stomps away in the corner before getting two off a clothesline. That earns Curtis a knee to the back and a chinlock (with another knee to the back) as the announcers talk about these two teaming together.

Graves makes sure to mention that he and Neville used to be NXT Tag Team Champions, which is a very good idea. He wasn't in NXT very long and that was several years ago. Remind us that you have in-ring credentials and people will pay more attention to you. Axel fights up but can't get the PerfectPlex as Curt kicks away, only to get caught in it the second time to give Axel the pin at 5:12.

**Rating:** D+. Axel truly is the Main Event Musketeer as he never seems to leave the place. He's good in the ring, the fans react to him and he's using the perfect (See what I did there?) finisher. Just give him a story and see what he can do on the main roster because he's likely going to be more over than most of the people around here.

Long recap of the Hardys vs. Sheamus/Cesaro.

Very shortened version of the Hardys vs. Sheamus/Cesaro from Raw,

showing about three minutes of a fifteen minute match.

Also from Raw, this time in full form.

Here's Wyatt to talk about how people shouldn't deny him like Seth Rollins has done. Seth lives in a glass house and a single shout brought it all crashing down. This brings out Rollins, who says he was speaking the truth when he called Wyatt a false prophet. If Bray is that disturbed by what Seth said, do something about it. Bray says Seth is beneath him and that Rollins doesn't want this fight. The lights go out again and Bray is gone. They go out again and Bray is on the screen, saying Seth can slay a king but not a god.

### Gran Metalik vs. Ariya Daivari

Metalik sends him into the corner to start and it's already time for the wristlock. A high crossbody gives Metalik two but gets tossed into the corner. We take a break and come back with Metalik walking the ropes into a dropkick for two. A running hurricanrana sends both guys out to the floor in a big crash and Metalik's top rope elbow is good for two more. Daivari goes for the mask though and it's a hammerlock lariat for the pin on Metalik at 7:53.

**Rating:** D+. This didn't have the time to go anywhere and I'm still wondering what Metalik did to WWE. He was on 205 Live a few weeks ago and now he's jobbing to Daivari of all people? The match was nothing to see, save for a few good dives from Metalik. I feel sorry for him though as it's like he just can't catch a break.

We look back at Samoa Joe choking out Paul Heyman.

And now, the only way this show could end.

Here are Lesnar and Heyman to get things going with Paul saying it's time for some revenge. Now last week, Samoa Joe attacked Heyman and Paul gets why that's the case. Sometimes he certainly deserves it but that wasn't true last week. Last week, Heyman saw someone that could go man to beast with Brock.

There have been a lot of Samoans in wrestling but Joe is the outcast one. For some reason he's not treated the same and his biggest claim to fame is choking Heyman out. Heyman agrees that the Koquina Clutch was everything that Joe promised it would be. That made Heyman wonder what would happen to the title if Brock was ever caught in that hold. Then Heyman realized that's not a problem because Joe isn't man enough to get the hold on Brock Lesnar.

Cue Joe to headbutt Lesnar right in the face as the brawl is on. Security is sent out and dispatched just as fast so here's the locker room (or at least the midcard) to try again. That goes just as badly with Joe breaking away to superkick Joe right in the jaw. The fight is finally broken up and things settle down. This was an outstanding start but there's one thing: none of this matters if Brock is lazy and just does suplexes into an F5 at the pay per view. Make it a competitive match where they beat the heck out of each other and things will be fine. Just don't make it a squash, please.

**Overall Rating:** D-. Totally skippable show this week with only the last segment being worth seeing. This felt like one of the older episodes of the show and that's really not a good thing. It was the same cast of characters who weren't interesting in the first place and now don't do anything more than fill in a space on this show.

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## **Main Event – June 8, 2017: Continuity? On This Show?**

### **Main Event**

Date: June 8, 2017

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

I'm very pleased by the fact that I'm not sure what to expect about this show. I mean, I know we'll be getting a cruiserweight match but maybe we can also have a Heath Slater/Rhyno match for a bit of fun. Either way, hopefully there's not much from Raw, which really didn't have the best week. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

#### Lince Dorado vs. Drew Gulak

It's nice to see that Dorado's injury wasn't anything serious. Lince grabs an armbar to start and a dropkick is good for two. Gulak doesn't seem to mind and kicks Lince in the face before starting in on the knee. Something like a DDT to the leg sets up a stump puller of all things with the announcers asking how long it's been since I last saw one. Eh about a second ago when I last looked at the screen.

A dragon screw legwhip keeps Dorado in trouble but the knee is fine enough for a moonsault press for two. Dorado hits the handspring Stunner and an Asai moonsault but the knee is suddenly banged up again. Back in and Drew takes the knee out again before grabbing a rollup with feet on the ropes for the pin at 6:21.

**Rating:** D. So Lince's knee was banged up, then he was able to do his flying stuff, then it was bad enough for the finish. I'm a bit split on that one but it's a bit hard to be interested in the leg work if Dorado is doing his high flying stuff before getting caught. At least Gulak won though and that's what matters most, especially with him in the middle of a solid push on 205 Live.

Stills of the Extreme Rules main event.

From Raw for the first time.

#### Roman Reigns vs. Bray Wyatt

Before the match, Bray offers an alliance with Roman, who says this reaction is why he's the guy. He punches Bray in the face and we're ready to go. Sister Abigail and the Superman Punch both miss in the

first thirty seconds and Bray is punched to the floor for a break. Back with Roman fighting out of a chinlock but getting caught in a DDT for two.

Another chinlock is broken up with a Samoan drop for two, only to have Bray send him into the post. A backsplash on the floor crushes Roman and takes us to our second break in eight minutes. Back again with Reigns sending him to the floor, only to get Rock Bottomed for two.

Bray takes him up to for some reason, only to have Roman slip out for a big sitout powerbomb. The Superman Punch gets two more but Bray rolls outside before the spear. That's enough to set up the apron dropkick but Roman gets blasted with a clothesline. They're both in at nine and Sister Abigail is countered into the spear for the pin at 19:38.

**Rating:** B. Well that was long. It was also annoying booking as they were seemingly building Bray up for a potential run at Lesnar but HAHA ROMAN WINS AGAIN! You know, because we have to keep the former three time World Champion strong in case the shine goes away. Bray gets to rebuild again while Reigns just keeps babbling about being THE GUY because people keep cheering/booing him at the same time. And for the second time.

It's time for Miz's celebration with Maryse hosting and a guy in a bear suit behind her. Miz comes out and we hit the YOU DESERVE IT chants. That's not cool with the new champ, as the fans chant that at every new champion in WWE. Miz brags about how awesome he is and how glad he is to be the new champion.

Maryse is praised for being this great but she didn't order the bear. Miz beats the heck out of the bear...but it's not Ambrose. That earns the bear a toss over the top (Miz: "At least you got beaten up by the Intercontinental Champion.") and here comes a present in a big box. Miz doesn't trust it and destroys the thing with a chair. Maryse freaks out because it's from her. She got him a grandfather clock because it's timeless, just like her. Maryse yells and leaves

as Miz goes off about Ambrose getting in his head. As the rant continues, the cameraman puts his camera down because it's Dean. The beatdown doesn't take long and Miz is left laying.

#### Curt Hawkins vs. Bo Dallas

Heel vs. heel works for me. This is over their recent failure as a tag team on this same show. Hawkins offers a free shot so Bo clotheslines him down. Curt gives him a hard Irish whip with Bo hitting his face on the middle rope and falling to the floor. Thankfully it's not the same result as Enzo Amore last year and Bo is fine as we take a break.

Back with Hawkins getting two off an elbow drop and grabbing a sleeper. The sleeper sequel doesn't last as long as Curt sends him into the corner instead. Dallas gets tied in the Tree of Woe for a dropkick to the ribs for two. Back up and Bo gets in a shot to the ribs, setting up a hanging swinging neckbreaker for the pin at 9:00.

**Rating:** C-. Hawkins' entrance continues to carry him through most of his matches and there's nothing wrong with that. I still like Dallas and his energy alone should have him as a jobber on the main roster. If nothing else, it's very nice to have some continuity on Main Event, which you never would have expected around here.

And now, Main Event's main event.

#### Samoa Joe vs. Seth Rollins

Joe tries an early powerbomb and gets taken down with a hurricanrana, only to have Joe come back with right hands and chops in the corner. A hard knee to Seth's head has Rollins in trouble and the Sling Blade is countered as we take a break. Back with Joe still hammering away as the announcers talk about wrestlers hitting their stride and being on a roll like never before.

Joe crushes him with the backplash and cranks on the arm. The snap powerslam gets two but Seth finally scores with an enziguri. A suicide dive sets up the Blockbuster, followed by a second dive. Rollins muscles him up for a Falcon Arrow and Joe is actually in some trouble. Bray Wyatt's lights hit though and....no one comes out.

The distraction is enough to set up the Koquina Clutch though and Rollins is out at 14:14.

**Rating:** C+. As usual, this match had the standard Raw problem: it doesn't mean anything so why should fans care enough to watch it? We know Lesnar is back to deal with Joe next week so why is this interesting? You know what else isn't interesting? Bray, who lost to Reigns two and a half hours ago completely clean. If you want him to be this big deal, stop having him lose matches over and over. Rollins vs. Wyatt is interesting but it doesn't matter if you have Reigns beat both of them in back to back weeks.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Not their worst episode and I'm still trying to get over the idea of continuity around here. It's like someone is actually paying attention to the exclusive wrestling on a glorified recap show. Anyway, not terrible here with two guys I like winning, though not much of note from Raw.

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# Monday Night Raw – June 5, 2017: It Has To Work

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 5, 2017

Location: Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Booker T.

We're past Extreme Rules and in a bit of a surprise, the new #1 contender is Samoa Joe, who will get to face Brock Lesnar in just over a month at Great Balls of Fire. Other than that....yeah there isn't really a lot to talk about, other than Cesaro and Sheamus winning the Tag Team Titles. Let's get to it.

We open with a long recap of last night's main event. Makes sense in a long match.

Here's Bray Wyatt to say that he was ready to slay the Beast but his sword was taken from him. The other four men in the match are all guilty and now it's time to start his path back to the Beast.

### Roman Reigns vs. Bray Wyatt

Before the match, Bray offers an alliance with Roman, who says this reaction is why he's the guy. He punches Bray in the face and we're ready to go. Sister Abigail and the Superman Punch both miss in the first thirty seconds and Bray is punched to the floor for a break. Back with Roman fighting out of a chinlock but getting caught in a DDT for two.

Another chinlock is broken up with a Samoan drop for two, only to have Bray send him into the post. A backsplash on the floor crushes Roman and takes us to our second break in eight minutes. Back again with Reigns sending him to the floor, only to get Rock Bottomed for two.

Bray takes him up to for some reason, only to have Roman slip out for a big sitout powerbomb. The Superman Punch gets two more but Bray rolls outside before the spear. That's enough to set up the



apron dropkick but Roman gets blasted with a clothesline. They're both in at nine and Sister Abigail is countered into the spear for the pin at 19:38.

**Rating:** B. Well that was long. It was also annoying booking as they were seemingly building Bray up for a potential run at Lesnar but HAHA ROMAN WINS AGAIN! You know, because we have to keep the former three time World Champion strong in case the shine goes away. Bray gets to rebuild again while Reigns just keeps babbling about being THE GUY because people keep cheering/booing him at the same time. Enzo Amore doesn't know who attacked him and thinks he should sell ice cream. Cass doesn't like the idea that people think it was him and promises to have Enzo's back. Enzo stops to hit on Cathy Kelly, who doesn't seem to mind.

Stills of Bayley vs. Alexa Bliss from last night.

Kurt Angle is in his office reading another incriminating text when Bliss comes in to hear some congratulations. When they don't come, Bliss says she's tired of Bayley so tonight it's Alexa Bliss: This Is My Life. Angle says that's terrible because last week's segment was awful (it wasn't THAT bad). Instead, tonight Bliss is defending against Nia Jax as she promised she would on last night's pre-show.

Elias Samson sings about Dean Ambrose.

#### Dean Ambrose vs. Elias Samson

Ambrose comes out and hits him in the head to send Samson outside. Dean grabs the mic and says he wants his rematch for the Intercontinental Title right now. Miz comes up on the screen and says no because he has a celebration for later. The distraction lets Samson hit his swinging neckbreaker. No match.

Post break Angle makes Miz vs. Ambrose for some unspecified point in the future. As for tonight though, Ambrose needs to leave.

Here's Samoa Joe to talk about Lesnar. Joe gets straight to the point: he isn't afraid of Brock Lesnar but he does envy the way Lesnar gets to do things. He shows up and fights when he wants and has Paul Heyman to run his errands for him. This brings out Heyman

to say that Samoa Joe is the next challenger. Lesnar doesn't fear Joe but Heyman thinks Joe likes that.

We hear about Lesnar not being afraid of facing Undertaker, John Cena, Goldberg or any of his other challengers because that's what Lesnar does. A few weeks ago, Heyman said he wanted to see Lesnar vs. Finn Balor because it's a license to print money. Joe is the worst case scenario however because Joe doesn't care.

Even if Lesnar successfully defends the title, Joe is going to take a piece of Brock with him. That being said, Heyman's job is to make Lesnar Joe's worst case scenario. They shake hands and Heyman goes to leave. Joe stops him though and whispers into Heyman's ear that he's about to choke Heyman out and render him unconscious. Before Joe does it though, he makes sure Heyman remembers it so he can tell Lesnar what's coming for him. That's exactly what Joe does and Heyman is left laying. Joe looked amazing here and that's the kind of upgrade he needed before heading into the match with Lesnar.

Post break Angle gets in Joe's face and says that can't happen. Joe says he'll do that to anyone who is in his way but all that matters is if Angle is in his way. Seth Rollins comes up with a challenge for later tonight. Angle makes the match.

#### Heath Slater/Rhyno vs. Cesaro/Sheamus

Non-title. Sheamus sends Slater into the post to start and we're in an early chinlock. Heath actually comes back with a kick to the face but Cesaro pulls Rhyno off the apron. The distraction is enough for a Brogue Kick to finish Slater at 1:43.

Sheamus says that's how smart teams win and takes a quick poll on how happy the fans are for the win. They know the Hardys aren't happy and there's nothing that can be done. So the feud CONTINUES??? REALLY???

TJP runs into Neville and wants his promised title shot. Neville basically tells him to back off.

#### Mustafa Ali vs. TJP

Ali starts fast and snaps off a headscissors but TJP takes him down

without too much effort. TJP takes him into the corner but gets caught in a tornado DDT. It's too early for the inverted 450 though, allowing TJP to hit the Detonation Kick for the pin at 2:40.

Post match Neville comes out to say there's no shot. TJP wants to talk to Angle about this right now and gets his face slammed into the stage. Neville shouts that the title is on the line tomorrow night on 205 Live.

Goldust sees the bigger picture here and says the biggest names in Hollywood will be around soon because the Golden Age is back.

Mickie James, Dana Brooke and Sasha Banks are talking (like any three random women do) when Alexa comes up and wants to chat. By chat, she means turn them against Nia Jax. Sasha has already left but Mickie and Dana don't seem to buy it. The two of them will be at ringside tonight.

The announcers talk about Bliss vs. Jax when Angle comes up to show Graves another text. They have a talk that we can't hear and Graves goes back to the announcers' desk, where he completely ignores Cole's questions about what just happened.

Angle won't talk about what happened, calling it a private matter. As he goes outside with his phone, Ambrose sneaks back in, with the Revival again being seen in the background.

### Kalisto vs. Titus O'Neil

Titus accidentally cost Apollo Crews a match last night so he's showing Apollo how it's done. Kalisto gets sent into the corner and slammed down as we see Akira Tozawa of all people watching.

Apparently he's next in line to join the Titus Brand, though that's from Titus himself. A fall away slam is countered into a rollup with trunks, only to have Kalisto reverse into one of his own, with a handful of trunks for the pin at 1:43.

Big Cass has been attacked. Enzo runs in and finds a gold chain in Cass' hand. Post break, Enzo blames Revival and says they need to have their match. The referee says Enzo will need to find a new partner.

It's time for Miz's celebration with Maryse hosting and a guy in a bear suit behind her. Miz comes out and we hit the YOU DESERVE IT chants. That's not cool with the new champ, as the fans chant that at every new champion in WWE. Miz brags about how awesome he is and how glad he is to be the new champion.

Maryse is praised for being this great but she didn't order the bear. Miz beats the heck out of the bear...but it's not Ambrose. That earns the bear a toss over the top (Miz: "At least you got beaten up by the Intercontinental Champion.") and here comes a present in a big box. Miz doesn't trust it and destroys the thing with a chair.

Maryse freaks out because it's from her. She got him a grandfather clock because it's timeless, just like her. Maryse yells and leaves as Miz goes off about Ambrose getting in his head. As the rant continues, the cameraman puts his camera down because it's Dean. The beatdown doesn't take long and Miz is left laying.

#### Enzo Amore/??? vs Anderson and Gallows

Amore has a new partner and it's.....Big Show. Before the match, Enzo says Show is looking slim and might be joining 205 Live. Enzo is 206 though and that makes him a heavyweight. He keeps going about rubbing Big Show and asks him to loosen up. That sends Show into something like an Enzo impression before finishing with the Cass line. Gallows kicks Enzo in the face at the bell but it's off to Show almost immediately. A chokeslam to Anderson sets up a modified Bada Boom Shaka Lacka for the pin at 1:42.

Video on Alexa Bliss.

Post break, Cass accuses Show of being the attacker but leaves with Enzo without much of a problem.

R-Truth says he's coming for Goldust and quotes A Few Good Men.

Bliss doesn't like the rest of the division.

#### Women's Title: Nia Jax vs. Alexa Bliss

Bliss is defending with Mickie and Dana at ringside. Jax throws her around to start and sends the champ into a corner. Bliss avoids a charge and tries a sleeper but gets sent outside. Mickie and Dana

laugh at her so Alexa starts a fight, drawing the DQ at 2:20.

Nia destroys Mickie and Dana post match.

Heyman is in the trainer's room when he gets a phone call from Brock. Paul thinks Brock should be here next week.

### Samoa Joe vs. Seth Rollins

Joe tries an early powerbomb and gets taken down with a hurricanrana, only to have Joe come back with right hands and chops in the corner. A hard knee to Seth's head has Rollins in trouble and the Sling Blade is countered as we take a break. Back with Joe still hammering away as the announcers talk about wrestlers hitting their stride and being on a roll like never before.

Joe crushes him with the backplash and cranks on the arm. The snap powerslam gets two but Seth finally scores with an enziguri. A suicide dive sets up the Blockbuster, followed by a second dive. Rollins muscles him up for a Falcon Arrow and Joe is actually in some trouble. Bray Wyatt's lights hit though and....no one comes out. The distraction is enough to set up the Koquina Clutch though and Rollins is out at 14:14.

**Rating:** C+. As usual, this match had the standard Raw problem: it doesn't mean anything so why should fans care enough to watch it? We know Lesnar is back to deal with Joe next week so why is this interesting? You know what else isn't interesting? Bray, who lost to Reigns two and a half hours ago completely clean. If you want him to be this big deal, stop having him lose matches over and over. Rollins vs. Wyatt is interesting but it doesn't matter if you have Reigns beat both of them in back to back weeks.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Not a bad show but way too long, as is so often the case. Having Lesnar back next week should help a lot and the show will be better as a result but dang the rest of the show could use some freshening up. It feels like a lot of these feuds have been going on forever and that shouldn't be the case coming off a pay per view. The show had good moments (Bliss continuing to be gold and Joe choking Heyman out) but they need something to get people fired up.

Maybe it's Lesnar next week but if he doesn't do it, I have no idea what will.

### Results

Roman Reigns b. Bray Wyatt – Spear

Cesaro/Sheamus b. Heath Slater/Rhyno – Brogue Kick to Slater

TJP b. Mustafa Ali – Detonation Kick

Kalisto b. Titus O'Neil – Rollup with a handful of trunks

Enzo Amore/Big Show b. Anderson and Gallows – High crossbody to Anderson

Alexa Bliss b. Nia Jax via DQ when Mickie James and Dana Brooke interfered

Samoa Joe b. Seth Rollins – Koquina Clutch

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# **Extreme Rules 2017: This**

# Show Just Made the List

## Extreme Rules 2017

Date: June 4, 2017

Location: Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T., Corey Graves

It's the night of extreme, which is loosely translated as "night of gimmicky rematches". The main event is a Fatal Five Way for a future shot at Brock Lesnar and the Universal Title, likely coming at next month's Great Balls of Fire. The stories aren't the strongest this time around so it's going to be mostly up to the in-ring action. Let's get to it.

### Kickoff Show: Kalisto vs. Apolo Crews

Kalisto has been feuding with Crews and Titus O'Neil for a few weeks now with Titus stealing a tainted win over him last week. Feeling out process to start with the announcers talking about LaVar Ball trying to buy into the Titus Brand. If you don't know who that is, leave it at that and consider it a good day. Kalisto takes over with some speedy technical stuff and sends Crews to the floor for a big springboard dive. He tries another dive but gets kicked in the head for his efforts as we take a break.

Back with Crews holding a front facelock but having to clothesline Kalisto down to break up a comeback. Kalisto makes his real comeback with the corkscrew springboard shoulder as Titus plays cheerleader. A small package gets two on Crews, followed by one heck of a tornado DDT for the same. Crews comes back with a Samoan drop but his standing shooting star only gets two. Titus offers some suggestions but the distraction lets Kalisto hit a quick Salida Del Sol for the pin at 9:35.

**Rating:** C+. That was a lot better than I expected and if it leads to Crews beating the fire out of Titus, so be it. Basically whatever gets Crews pushed better than he has been so far on the main roster with a bit of a character/personality to him is an improvement, as

we've been seeing him waste away for over a year now. Kalisto continues to be the guy that should be near the top of the cruiserweight show but for now he's just a low level performer who fights heavyweights on the main show. You know, because the cruiserweight division is nonsense

The opening sequence talks about about things going extreme and how this is all about facing Brock Lesnar. You might remember him even though you haven't seen him in two months.

We recap Miz vs. Dean Ambrose. They feuded on Smackdown late last year but now they're both on Raw so we'll just keep it going. Miz got a shot at the title but Ambrose got disqualified, setting up this rematch.

#### Intercontinental Title: Miz vs. Dean Ambrose

Ambrose is defending and can lose the title via DQ. They start slowly with an exchange of hammerlocks as the announcers talk about this being Miz's 92<sup>nd</sup> pay per view match. A slap to the face annoys Ambrose so he hammers away in the corner. Dean keeps his cool and sends Miz outside for a suicide dive, followed by a whip into the barricade.

Things settle down though as we make sure that the EXTREME show doesn't get too intense. Another yell from the referee allows Miz to get in an apron DDT for two. A neckbreaker is good for the same and Miz kicks him in the face for good measure. Three corner running dropkicks and the running corner clothesline has Dean in trouble but he's still able to punch Miz out of the air.

Neither finish can hit so Dean sends him outside for another dive. Back in and Ambrose grabs a rollup for two, only to tweak his knee coming off the top. That means it's off to the Figure Four with Dean finally getting over for the rope break. Dean gets crotched on top and Miz pulls him away, taking the turnbuckle pad with him.

The champ catches himself from sending Miz into the buckle but Miz uses the distraction to hit some YES Kicks. The big one is countered into a Figure Four on Miz but another rope grab is good for the



break. They both limp on the bad leg for the slugout for a double knockdown before we FINALLY get to the obvious idea as Maryse slaps Miz. The referee says no and ejects Maryse though, allowing Dean to grab a rollup for two. Miz gets smart though and sends Dean into the referee but that's still not a DQ. Instead Miz hits the Skull Crushing Finale for the pin at 20:02.

**Rating:** B. I'm happy with Miz getting the title back but sweet goodness they were waiting around until the gimmick played into the ending. The slap not counting was pretty obvious but at least the DQ thing set up the ending. The problem here is very simple though: there's not much interest in these two fighting again because they did it for so long back in December and January. But hey, at least Cena got a marriage proposal in there before they send Miz right back where he was a year ago first right?

Bayley thinks Alexa Bliss was no Rock and Mankind but she's been watching Tommy Dreamer, Sandman and Steve Blackman to get ready for tonight. She also saw Wonder Woman and feels empowered to take the title back.

#### Sasha Banks/Rich Swann vs. Alicia Fox/Noam Dar

Swann gets a great hometown pop with one fan in particular really seeming happy. How do I know that? It's because they cut to the one fan's reaction during the entrance. The women start but it's off to Dar before anything can happen. That means Swann has to come in to kick Dar in the head a bit before handing it back to Banks. The Bank Statement has Fox in trouble until Dar pulls her to the ropes.

Fox takes over on Sasha for a bit but another kick allows the hot tag to Swann, who gets almost no reaction this time around. A running flip Fameasser drops Dar and the spinning kick to the face makes things even worse. Everything breaks down and Sasha hits the double knees off the top to drop Dar on the floor. Back in and the Phoenix Splash ends Noam at 6:23.

**Rating:** D+. Well that was filler. Seriously what else can you call something like this? They have a six match card and one of the matches gets less than six and a half minutes. That being said, this

was a match that shouldn't have gone any longer because it has no place on a pay per view card. Also why does Swann get to survive the hometown curse?

The winners dance.

Elias Samson sings about how bad Baltimore is. This goes nowhere but does manage to kill off three minutes.

We recap Bayley vs. Alexa Bliss. Alexa kind of cheated to win the title last month and then attacked Bayley with a kendo stick.

Tonight it's a kendo stick on a pole match but the question is whether Bayley is capable of getting extreme.

#### Women's Title: Bayley vs. Alexa Bliss

Bliss is defending and gets sent into the corner early on, only to send Bayley outside. She's too short to reach the stick though, which falls out to the floor instead. A belly to back suplex on the floor makes things worse for Bliss and Bayley grabs the stick.

Graves: "It's like she went from Prince Adam to He-Man!" Bayley takes too much time pulling the stick back though and gets speared down, allowing Bliss to hammer away with the stick. The beating is cut off with a Bayley to Belly but Bayley can't follow up. More stick shots knock Bayley silly and the DDT finishes her off at 5:13.

**Rating:** F. So to recap: Bayley is the biggest star in NXT and then is booked like a huge loser in WWE. The fact that NXT was booked by Dusty Rhodes' protege and WWE is booked by a "creative team" has nothing to do with this I'm sure. Yeah I'm sure they didn't think that the simplest idea in the world (Bayley is an underdog who gets beaten down but keeps coming back because she has heart and loves what she does) needed to be completely redone in a horrible way or anything.

Just hand her the title almost right out of the gate, let her win an overbooked match at Wrestlemania and everything will be fine. It's certainly not creative's fault at all. Nah, it's all on Bayley, just like all those other hot prospects in NXT who just can't make it work for whatever reason on the main roster. All on them of course.

To clarify some of that rambling mess: this was a horribly booked match. The whole idea was building towards Bayley finding her inner anger and using the stick. They built it up well enough and then....nothing. She had one chance to swing the stick and then Bliss just beat her up to retain in a very short match. There was no late hope spot, there was no comeback and there was nothing for the fans to get behind. This was just a step ahead of a squash instead of something interesting, which makes the last month or two a complete waste. Bliss looked great but Bayley continues to be completely mishandled.

Did I mention I REALLY don't like WWE creative as of late?

#### Tag Team Titles: Hardy Boyz vs. Cesaro/Sheamus

The Hardys are defending in a cage with both members needing to escape to win, meaning no pinfalls. Cesaro and Sheamus head for the walls and the door to start but the champs pull them back in without much effort. A few whips into the cage set up a few Poetries in Motion against the cage. The advantage doesn't last long as Cesaro sends Jeff into the cage. It's still too early to leave though as Jeff makes the save.

They trade some escape attempts to no avail until Cesaro ax handles Jeff. Sheamus misses the Brogue Kick and gets caught in Matt's tornado DDT to put all four down. The champs are up first and go up the cage, only to have Cesaro and Sheamus make quick saves. Jeff actually manages to get to the floor but that leaves Matt in a handicap match. The Side Effect drops Sheamus and Cesaro is put down as well but Matt can't escape just yet.

Jeff tries to help and even pulls him halfway over the top before Cesaro punches him down to the floor. That means Matt gets pulled back down into the ring for a double Razor's Edge (cool spot). A Brogue Kick drops Jeff again but Matt keeps Sheamus from escaping. Back to back Twists of Fate allows Matt to get his legs over the top until Cesaro hits an uppercut.

A super White Noise knocks Matt silly but here's Jeff to dive off the top with a Whisper in the Wind to take Sheamus and Cesaro down

again. Matt gets up and drags Jeff's body towards the door as Cesaro and Sheamus go up over the top at the same time. Matt is on the floor first but can't get Jeff out (again), allowing Cesaro and Sheamus to drop down and win the titles (for a face pop) at 15:45.

**Rating:** B. Uh, is it just me or does that ending not make sense? Matt and Jeff escaped first but Jeff's escape is rescinded for going back in? When has that been a rule? It's not the worst ending in the world and I'm fine with Cesaro and Sheamus as champions (imagine saying that six months ago) as they had to get the titles off Matt and Jeff somehow, likely without pinning them. The match being good always helps too.

We recap the Cruiserweight Title match. Austin Aries has lost to Neville twice in a row, both times via some shenanigans. Tonight it's a submission match with Aries coming in on a bad leg, though he made Neville tap in a tag match six days ago.

#### Cruiserweight Title: Neville vs. Austin Aries

Aries is challenging in a submission match. Feeling out process to start with Neville working on an armbar instead of the taped up neck or bad knee. Aries smacks him in the back and hits a slingshot hilo, only to have Neville bail to the floor to escape the Last Chancery. Back up and Aries tweaks his knee coming off the ropes to give Neville a target. A dragon screw leg whip has the leg in trouble but Aries hits a few shinbreakers with the good leg.

The neckbreaker across the ropes is broken up and Aries might have hurt his arm on the landing. The arm is fine enough for Aries to take Neville's leg out again and grab a figure four until Neville makes the ropes. Ignore this being a SUBMISSION match, meaning the rope shouldn't be a break.

The Rings of Saturn go on Aries in the middle of the ring but he gets his feet to the ropes for another break. Now it's Aries grabbing his own Rings of Saturn, only to have Neville grab the referee. That's the threat of a DQ (ERG!) so Aries lets go to tell the referee not to do it.

Neville gets in a superkick and puts Aries on top but gets caught in a sunset bomb. The Last Chancery goes on but Neville crawls to the floor, only to have the hold stay on. Neville taps to no avail because the fall has to be in the ring. Aries misses the suicide dive to send him crashing to the floor. Back in and the Red Arrow hits Aries' back, setting up the Rings to make Aries tap at 17:23.

**Rating:** B+. Other than actually growling at the referee to STOP WITH THE DQ THREATS BECAUSE IT'S A FREAKING SUBMISSION MATCH YOU STUPID PEOPLE, this was really entertaining stuff. Above all else though, it needs to be the finish to the feud. Aries has lost every single time and now he lost as clean as you can in a match like this (which STILL shouldn't have disqualifications). Let it be over now and give us Akira Tozawa or someone else challenging for the title.

Great Balls of Fire ad with a 1950s theme because that's the best they can come up with.

Lesnar's title defense will take place at Great Balls of Fire.

We recap the Fatal Five Way, which is really happening because Braun Strowman is injured and we need a new #1 contender. Kurt Angle put five guys in a single match with the winner facing Lesnar next month.

Roman Reigns vs. Seth Rollins vs. Finn Balor vs. Bray Wyatt vs. Samoa Joe

Winner gets Brock next month, one fall to a finish and anything goes. It's a big brawl to start with Reigns being left alone in the ring until Bray Wyatt comes in to keep him from being lonely. Wyatt gets caught on the middle rope for a Samoan drop, followed by one to Joe for good measure.

Balor sends Reigns to the floor, leaving Bray to come back in and beat on Rollins and Joe. The three are sent outside for a big flip dive from Balor, only to have Reigns send him into the barricade. Joe breaks up the apron dropkick to Wyatt and sends Reigns into the steps. There isn't much else to do here other than list off moves, as is so often the case in matches like this one.

Wyatt and Joe get together to hit people with steps, including a shot to Reigns which draws some solid cheers. They officially make a deal and take over on Balor inside as Corey is waiting on them to turn on each other. Seth starts a comeback but gets DDTed onto the steps for his efforts. Bray grabs a chair and cleans house again until he and Joe take turns backsplashing the chair onto Balor.

Joe finally misses a charge into a chair and Bray misses the crossbody, allowing Reigns to remember that he's in the match. Roman gets the expected house cleaning segment until Bray takes him outside for a Rock Bottom onto the table. Now it's Rollins coming back with a springboard clothesline on Wyatt, followed by a double Blockbuster to Bray and Joe.

Things speed up with Rollins loading up a suicide dive to Bray, who pulls Joe into the path instead. Back in and Sister Abigail plants Rollins, only to have Joe break it up and start the inevitable fight with Bray. Balor comes back in with a chair to break up the Koquina Clutch before dropkicking everyone in sight.

It's time to load up the announcers' table but Reigns comes back with a spear to drive Balor and Joe through the barricade. Seth is back up with a frog splash to drive Bray through the table but stays down holding his knee. The knee is fine enough for him to stand up for a staredown with Reigns as the chair is still in the ring. A quick Superman Punch gives Roman two, followed by Seth's low superkick getting the same.

Another frog splash gets two more but here's Bray for failed Sister Abigail attempts on both guys. Roman spears Bray down and hits Rollins with another Superman Punch. Balor takes one of his own but still comes back with the shotgun dropkick and Coup de Grace. It doesn't matter though as Joe comes back in with the Koquina Clutch on Balor for the win at 29:10.

**Rating:** A-. I think I can go with Joe vs. Lesnar if I absolutely have to. This was a WAY better match than I was expecting with the extra time doing it a lot of favors. They had all five looking strong with the Bray/Joe alliance working fine for a story during

the match. Joe winning is a good idea as he can get a rub from working with Lesnar, despite having almost no chance at actually beating him. I had a great time with this one and the ending is a very good call.

**Overall Rating:** B+. This was actually a heck of a show, albeit one that isn't going to mean a thing after....oh I'd say tomorrow. That's a common problem in WWE and I'm not surprised to see it continue here. The idea of having a title match to build towards is a nice change of pace and should help the show a lot. Add that to a lot of really solid wrestling (only the Bayley vs. Bliss match was really bad, which is due to the booking instead of the action, or lack thereof) and you have a much better show than I ever would have guessed.

### Results

Miz b. Dean Ambrose – Skull Crushing Finale

Sasha Banks/Rich Swann b. Alicia Fox/Noam Dar – Phoenix Splash to Dar

Alexa Bliss b. Bayley – DDT

Cesaro/Sheamus b. Hardy Boyz – Cesaro and Sheamus escaped the cage

Neville b. Austin Aries – Rings of Saturn

Samoa Joe b. Finn Balor, Bray Wyatt, Seth Rollins and Roman Reigns – Koquina Clutch to Balor

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# Extreme Rules 2017 Preview

So it's time for one of the least gimmicky gimmick pay per views that WWE offers. I get the idea behind what they're doing here but can you really consider a lot of these matches to be EXTREME? It's a good idea if the bigger matches are all extreme (Is that really the best name they can come up with? It sounds so officially and corp.....yeah that's the best we're getting.) but it really feels like a bunch of gimmick matches which are lumped together under the EXTREME banner. Let's get to it.

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

There's no announced Kickoff Show match this time around so we can jump straight into the bigger matches. This is kendo stick on a pole match with the big idea being that Bayley can't get extreme with the stick. I mean, this ignores the time where she beat the fire out of Tommy Dreamer with one on Edge and Christian's show. This lead to the not as bad as people thought This Is Your Life Bayley which again saw Bliss beat the heck out of her.

I smell a screwy finish here with Bayley using the stick but still losing the match somehow. Bliss needs to hang onto the title for a good while as she's blown the roof off all of the expectations she had upon winning the title. Bayley continues to flounder on "Monday Night Raw" (A popular NXT talent being used horribly on the main roster? Really?) but I'm sure she'll land on her feet eventually.

## Tag Team Titles: Hardys(c) vs. Sheamus/Cesaro

Wake me when this one is over. This is a fine example of a feud that has dragged on for the better part of forever (really only about a month and a half) because there's little reason for them to be fighting anymore other than the "Monday Night Raw" tag division is a



barren wasteland. I know it's asking a lot but the precious, overworked (and overstaffed) writing staff could build up more than one team at a time.

I'll take the Hardys to retain here, even though they're rapidly turning back into the standard version of the team. There isn't much of a reason to care about them now other than nostalgia and hoping that they get to use the Broken characters down the line. They don't need to be crushed or anything similar but I could go for some new champions. However, that seems to be the Revival's spot to take and I think we're all the better for it.

### **Intercontinental Title: Dean Ambrose(c) vs. The Miz**

Again, WHY IS THIS FEUD HAPPENING AGAIN? Miz moving to "Monday Night Raw" was the worst thing that could have happened to him as he easily could be feuding with Randy Orton over the Smackdown World Title right now. Instead though he's feuding with Ambrose again and chasing yet another Intercontinental Title. This time around though he can win the title via DQ and that sounds like a way to a screwy finish.

In theory this should be Maryse slapping Miz or something of a similar simple manner for a quick DQ. However, instead they'll likely have Kurt Angle come out and say "eh that's not happening" so the match can continue with Ambrose retaining. There's no reason for Ambrose to keep the title (which he's had for FIVE MONTHS) but I have a feeling they're going to keep the belt on him even longer for absolutely no apparent reason.

### **Cruiserweight Title: Neville(c) vs. Austin Aries**

This is their third straight pay per view match and also shows the major issues with having so many TV shows and pay per views. They had a great match at "Wrestlemania XXXIII" and a slightly less great match at "Payback 2017" but after seeing them fight in almost every possible style of tag match possible, I'm sick of watching them over and over again. This time around it's a submission match, which at least adds a new element to the match.

I think I'll go with Neville retaining here as him tapping out on Monday made it feel like they were setting up doubt that won't go anywhere. If nothing else this seems likely to set up Akira Tozawa as Neville's next challenger, which certainly wouldn't be the worst idea in the world. Either way, I'm sure the match will be entertaining and I'm sure TJP and possibly Jack Gallagher will be interfering as well.

### **Rich Swann/Sasha Banks vs. Alicia Fox/Noam Dar**

I'm sorry what now? This is the best they can do and yet American Alpha is stuck on the "Smackdown Live" bench for weeks at a time? This is really all they can come up with for Banks (I reserve the right to retract this is it helps set up a Banks heel turn) when you have Dana Brooke sitting around? Or Mickie James and Nia Jax perhaps? It's two feuds put together and while that's usually good, Banks feels completely forced into this spot.

I'll take Swann and Banks in what should be the Kickoff Show match at worst. Swann is entertaining in the ring and has a gimmick with the dancing thing but Dar really doesn't feel like he's all that special. Fox is good in the crazy role and Banks is great by definition but that doesn't mean we need to be having this match on pay per view.

### **Roman Reigns vs. Finn Balor vs. Samoa Joe vs. Bray Wyatt vs. Seth Rollins**

And WWE still seems confused by why the "Monday Night Raw" ratings suck. This is about an opportunity to be destroyed by Brock Lesnar at a nothing show in July and that's really all they've got. The title isn't on the line here and Lesnar isn't going to be seen but we're supposed to get fired up about a match with a stipulation that might change anyway? I mean, do you believe WWE won't change the match before July? Nothing is actually on the line here and it's basically a glorified prequel.

I'll take Rollins to win here as there's a reason for Lesnar to want another shot at him after their match at "Battleground 2015". Paul Heyman even referenced that the night after "Wrestlemania XXXIII" so

it's definitely been considered. Not that it matters though as this is just a pit stop on the LONG road to "Wrestlemania XXXIV" where Roman Reigns can save us all again and we can boo him our thanks.

### **Overall Thoughts**

Overall "Extreme Rules 2017" feels very skippable. The wrestling should be good enough but that doesn't mean it's a show you need to see. You have a match setting up another pay per view main event and a bunch of rematches, plus Banks slumming it with the cruiserweights. That's really the best thing we can get out of WWE on the monthly pay per view schedule? Why do these things exist again? The show will likely be entertaining and the main event sounds fun but it's not a show I'm looking forward to watching.

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# **Monday Night Raw – May 29,**

# 2017: Tune In Next Week To Find Out

## Monday Night Raw

Date: May 29, 2017

Location: Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, South Carolina

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T., Corey Graves

It's the go home show for Extreme Rules and we already have two matches announced. Tonight we have Seth Rollins vs. Roman Reigns and Finn Balor vs. Samoa Joe vs. Bray Wyatt to help set up the Fatal Five Way at the pay per view. Other than that there's always the chance that some new matches could be announced so let's get to it.

We open with the John Cena narrated Memorial Day tribute.

Opening sequence.

Here are Miz and Maryse for MizTV. Miz complains about Dean Ambrose stealing his Intercontinental Title and then getting himself disqualified to retain it. Therefore, the rematch is going to have the title changing hands on a disqualification. We see a clip of last week's match where Miz got Ambrose disqualified, which he'll do again on Sunday.

As for tonight though, Miz brings out his guests: Sheamus and Cesaro. Miz praises them for being hard working guys but Sheamus and Cesaro think the fans have been fickle. After months of working harder than anyone, the fans turned on them for the sake of the shiny new toy. Miz thinks the same thing is true for him as he's the one who made the title mean something. Cue Ambrose to say that someone needed to shut these three up. He's not out here alone though as the Hardys run out to help clear the ring.

Hardy Boyz/Dean Ambrose vs. Cesaro/Sheamus/Miz

Joined in progress after a break in what shouldn't be the biggest surprise. Sheamus works over Matt and throws him around before hitting the forearms to the chest. Cesaro comes in with a chinlock

for a few seconds, only to have Matt get up and bring in Dean to clean house. Jeff baseball slides Cesaro and Dean hits the swinging neckbreaker on Sheamus.

A Miz distraction lets Sheamus knee Dean in the head though and we take a break. Back with Miz missing the big YES Kick and getting rolled up for two. A big boot gives Miz the same though and Dean stays in trouble. Ambrose fights away again but Cesaro and Miz take the Hardys off the apron so there's no one to tag. I've always loved that spot and it still works.

The Rebound Lariat is enough for the hot tag to Jeff as everything breaks down. Miz eats Poetry in Motion and Side Effect for two. The Twisting Stunner drops Sheamus and it's Dirty Deeds to Cesaro. A neckbreaker (looked like a Twist of Fate that was sold wrong) and the Swanton are enough to put Miz away at 12:45.

**Rating:** C. A bit dull at times but the ending helped it a lot. They had a hot finish, which is really what matters most in something like this. I've always been a fan of combining the two feuds into one match and the ending would suggest that at least one title will change hands on Sunday, which would be the best option.

The announcers talk but Graves is on his phone and leaves, looking a bit distraught.

Graves takes the phone to Kurt Angle, who says if it's true, it could ruin him.

Elias Samson has a song for us before his match against a somewhat old looking jobber.

#### Elias Samson vs. Zac Evans

Samson throws him around and hits something like a spinebuster before pounding away on the ropes. Evans' back is bent around the post, followed by the reverse swinging neckbreaker for the pin at 2:40.

Graves is back and doesn't want to talk about what happened.

Samoa Joe watches a Finn Balor video and says he's broken Balor before and can do it again. Bray Wyatt pops up on screen to say that

Joe is blind like the masses. Only one man can slay the Beast and that man is the Eater of Worlds.

### Bray Wyatt vs. Samoa Joe vs. Finn Balor

Bray bails to the floor to start so Finn hammers on Joe, which goes about as well as you would expect. Joe tosses Bray back inside, leaving us with the Balor showdown. One heck of a kick to the head staggers Bray but Joe is back in to hammer on Balor. The idea of a Bray vs. Joe showdown seems to intrigue the fans, only to have Joe sent outside again.

All three are back in for a Tower of Doom with Bray being the only man standing. Sister Abigail is broken up by Joe but Balor breaks up the Koquina Clutch. The big flip dives takes out the monsters and we go to a break. Back with Balor getting double teamed as the big guys take turns crushing him in the corner.

They take turns hitting backsplashes but Bray finally turns on Joe, as you had to expect him to do. Things don't go well for Bray though as Balor makes his comeback with a string of strikes to the face. Balor sends both guys outside and hammers away, only to get caught in Joe's Rock Bottom out of the corner. Bray dumps Joe again but Sister Abigail is broken up again. Joe takes it instead, only to have Balor jump Bray from behind. The Sling Blade and corner dropkick but Joe tosses Balor into the post and steals the pin at 16:48.

**Rating:** B. Really good match here with all three working hard. I like the idea of Joe winning, even though it's fairly certain that either Balor or Rollins will be the one getting destroyed by Lesnar first. They're certainly doing a good job of building Joe up though and that's a great sign for the future.

Rollins says he knows Reigns better than anyone and knows that he owns him. Tonight it's going to be the knee that used to be his greatest weakness but is now his greatest strength.

### Noam Dar vs. Rich Swann

Alicia Fox and Sasha Banks are here as seconds. Dar jumps him from

behind at the bell and stomps on the back of Swann's neck. Rich makes a quick comeback as the women get into it. A middle rope Phoenix splash puts Dar away at 2:55.

Swann and Banks dance post match.

The Revival is back and asked about attacking Enzo. They deny any wrongdoing and play down the footage of them being seen last week around the time of the attack. Corey says that Big Cass has seen the tape.

We look at the 205 Live street fight between Brian Kendrick and Akira Tozawa.

Big Cass comes out to yell at Graves for implying that he had something to do with Enzo being attacked. There's a more natural, fast paced feeling to this show and it's working so far.

#### Kalisto vs. Titus O'Neil

Kalisto starts fast with the kicks and dropkicks Titus into the corner. A victory roll is broken up and Titus grabs a rollup with trunks for the pin at 49 seconds.

Here's Alexa Bliss with a table of stuff and some random people for This is Your Life Bayley. Bliss talks about the kendo stick hanging in the corner, which Bayley would probably try to hug instead of use on her. Now it's off to the table, which includes Bayley's first doll, which she still plays with. Then we have a trophy for best in sportsmanship. Bliss also has Bayley's yearbook where she was voted most likely to apologize.

That's enough for the table of stuff though so let's move on to the guests, starting with Mrs. Flapper, Bayley's fourth grade teacher. Apparently Bayley had perfect attendance and sat next to her father, who she just couldn't be away from without crying. Then we have Bayley's best friend Tracy, who says Bayley was the nicest girl in the world. The problem was Bayley let people take advantage of her by taking the fall for them or doing their homework. Then something happened and they stopped talking. Bayley wanted to watch wrestling instead of going out and doing anything else.

Bliss finds this hilarious we have Bayley's ex-boyfriend Phil, who said their first date was ok but kind of strange. Her dad was there every single time, including the time they almost had their first kiss. Phil didn't really like her though because he just wanted to get closer to Tracy. She liked him too so they kiss, which Bliss deems disgusting. Cue the real Bayley to clean house, including going up to grab the stick. Bliss cuts her off though and pulls out a second stick to give Bayley a beating. This was a long segment but Bliss sold it as she can do so well. The joke got old in a hurry more than once but at least they kept it moving fast enough.

Enzo has been attacked again. Maybe we could see who did it if we didn't use all of the cameras on crowd reaction shots. Cass blames the Revival but Angle says they were gone. Angle tells him to calm down while we figure this out.

#### Austin Aries/Jack Gallagher vs. TJP/Neville

TJP and Gallagher get things going with Jack being driven into the corner for some kicks from Neville. That just means the headstand in the corner and a quick dropkick to take us to a break. Back with Gallagher in trouble as TJP puts on a chinlock. Jack fights up again and makes the hot tag to Aries, who comes in and works on the leg. The Last Chancery is broken up with a jawbreaker and the villains are sent outside for a double suicide dive. Aries misses the missile dropkick but Neville misses the Phoenix splash. The Last Chancery makes Neville tap at 12:40.

**Rating:** C-. And so, we see it again. These four have had every possible combination as many times as they can now and I really don't need to see them again. The match was fine but I have no interest in seeing anything else from these four. Hopefully Sunday is it for Neville vs. Aries as we've seen this match built up on two shows for the better part of three months.

Reigns says he'll win.

Post break, Neville is livid.

We look back at Goldust attacking R-Truth a few weeks back.



Goldust says the story is about to be finished.

R-Truth Productions cuts Goldust off and we have Truth quoting Pulp Fiction. Goldust is gonna get got.

Sasha Banks will be on 205 Live. Pay no attention to the audience being tiny for weeks leading up to this.

### Roman Reigns vs. Seth Rollins

They circle each other to start with the fans being almost one sided behind Rollins. Reigns throws him around and stares Rollins down. Some big forearms send Rollins outside but he hits the jumping knee, followed by a clothesline over the top. A dive takes us to a break with a good deal of time left.

Back with Rollins being sent into the barricade, right in front of a good number of empty first and second row seats. Reigns hits the corner clotheslines but the Superman Punch is pretty easily blocked. Rollins springboards into the Superman Punch for two but it's too early for the spear. Instead Rollins hits the low superkick for two of his own, only to have Reigns no sell the Buckle Bomb and hit another Superman Punch.

They head outside with Reigns going shoulder first into the steps, setting up a Blockbuster for another two. That great looking frog splash is still only good for a near fall but Rollins misses the third Phoenix Splash of the night. An enziguri sets up the windup knee but Reigns spears him down for the pin at 18:22.

**Rating:** B-. As is the case in the tag match (albeit to a better degree), the match was good but nothing we haven't seen several times before. I know the idea is that Reigns has the momentum heading into Sunday, though it's really hard to buy the idea that he's getting the title shot at some nothing show in July instead of in his fourth Wrestlemania main event in a row. Good main event, but people really didn't seem to care.

**Overall Rating:** C+. That's one of the better shows they've done in a long time as they kept the action strong and even had some stuff that left you coming back next week. I've never understood why so

many shows have to be tied up nice and neat by the end. Give us some cliffhangers and stories to keep going instead of finishing things up and starting over again next week. I liked this show more than more recent Raw's, even though it was only pretty good. I'm really not sure what that means but I don't think it's a positive.

### Results

Dean Ambrose/Hardy Boyz b. Sheamus/Cesaro/Miz – Swanton Bomb to Miz

Elias Samson b. Zac Evans – Reverse swinging neckbreaker

Samoa Joe b. Bray Wyatt and Finn Balor – Coup de Grace to Wyatt

Rich Swann b. Noam Dar – Middle rope Phoenix splash

Titus O'Neil b. Kalisto – Rollup with a handful of trunks

Austin Aries/Jack Gallagher b. TJP/Neville – Last Chancery to Neville

Roman Reigns b. Seth Rollins – Spear

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# Main Event – May 25, 2017: Pick Something Already

## Main Event

Date: May 22, 2017

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Iowa

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

Dang it just when I'm getting used to Graves and Phillips being on every show together, or at least feeling like they are. They leave NXT and are now on one of the main shows each, 205 Live and this one. It's allowed these two to develop a great chemistry together and that makes the shows so much easier to listen to. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

### TJP vs. Gran Metalik

Joseph points out that this is a rematch from the finals of the Cruiserweight Classic, which of course is taking place on this show instead of anywhere else. Metalik starts fast with his flips off the ropes and an armdrag to send TJP outside for a big dive. Back in and a springboard elbow gets two but it's way too early for the Metalik Driver.

Instead it's time to go for the mask but TJP settles for just throwing him off the top for two. TJP grabs a modified crossface chickenwing before switching over to a regular chinlock. Back up and TJP kicks him in the face a few times, followed by the top rope splash. A moonsault misses though and TJP hits the Detonation Kick for the pin at 5:27.

**Rating:** C. Completely watchable cruiserweight match here, which is really not saying much given the history between these two. Metalik has fallen all the way through the floor lately and I really hope there's a big reason for it instead of something petty that was holding him back, like some mistake six months ago.

To Raw for the first time.

Here's Finn Balor for a match but first he has something to say. At Extreme Rules we have a Fatal Five Way (he said Final Five at first) but here's Paul Heyman to interrupt. Paul lists off Lesnar's potential challengers and says Brock would make them all victims. Finally we have Balor himself, who Heyman thinks is the most talented performer in WWE today. Paul wants to see them fight and Balor agrees, even though Brock isn't here tonight.

And again from Monday.

#### Sheamus vs. Matt Hardy

The winner gets to pick the stipulation for the title match at Extreme Rules. Matt clotheslines him to the floor to start but Sheamus takes over in the brawling. The ten forearms set up a running knee to send Matt into the barricade. Back in and Matt avoids a charge into the corner but gets caught in a Regal Roll for two.

We come back from a break with Sheamus fighting out of a chinlock and using a Jeff distraction to elbow Sheamus in the head. The Side Effect gets two on Sheamus and a jumping knee to the face gets the same on Matt. Sheamus knocks him to the floor but stops to kick at Jeff, allowing Matt to grab the Twist of Fate for the pin at 12:07.

**Rating:** D+. Are we done yet? Like really, are we done with this feud yet? They've been doing the same stuff over and over again now with the Hardys never even seeming to break a sweat against these two. I'm liking Sheamus and Cesaro more and more but they need to actually beat the Hardys at some point to make it actually matter. Matt makes it a cage match.

#### Heath Slater/Rhyno vs. Curtis Axel/Curt Hawkins

Wait Axel is heel again??? Hawkins and Axel argue over who gets to start with Slater but it's quickly off to Rhyno for a HUGE pop. A clothesline gets two on Curt and it's back to Slater for a much more modest pop. Slater falls for a distraction though and gets shoved out to the floor, allowing the villains to take over as we take a

break.

Back with Hawkins putting Slater in a sleeper before it's off to Hawkins for an armbar. A good looking dropkick gets Axel booed again but Slater flapjacks Hawkins, allowing the tag off to Rhyno. Everything breaks down with Heath diving onto Hawkins, leaving Rhyno to hit a spinebuster on Axel for the pin at 11:07.

**Rating:** D. Rhyno's level of overness never ceases to amaze me. The guy goes out there and does his thing every single week, despite not really changing anything in his offense for the last twenty years or so. Maybe it's the Michigan thing but sweet goodness he was as popular as free beer in a frat house.

And the final Raw clip.

#### Roman Reigns/Seth Rollins vs. Samoa Joe/Bray Wyatt

As usual, Reigns is hated. Joe and Rollins start with Seth getting in a few jabs, only to be sent crashing to the floor as we take an early break. Back with Reigns giving Bray a Samoan drop but getting dropped by Joe. A chinlock and enziguri keep Reigns in trouble and Bray throws him outside.

That doesn't go quite as well as Reigns sends Joe into the barricade, allowing the hot tag to Rollins. House is quickly cleaned with Seth nailing a double suicide dive, only to get caught on top. A double high crossbody takes the villains down but Reigns runs into Rollins by mistake. Rollins and Reigns get into an argument and it's the Koquina Clutch to knock Seth out at 14:58.

**Rating:** C. This would be the latest in the long line of matches that mean nothing but feature people who are going to be important later on and therefore are supposed to make you care. It would have done them a lot of good to slowly announce the participants and give us something to bridge the gap between now and Extreme Rules but that's just not how WWE operates.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Just a run of the mill show here though the new commentator could have been a lot worse. He has a smooth voice and makes the show a bit easier to sit through. The Raw clips didn't

help things though, which is what drives this show every single week.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the Histories of Saturday Night's Main Event and Clash of the Champions, now in PAPERBACK. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2017/05/19/history-of-saturday-nights-main-event-and-clash-of-the-champions-now-in-paperback-plus-price-drops/>

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<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

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# Monday Night Raw – May 22, 2017: The Longest Steps Of The Year

## **Monday Night Raw**

Date: May 22, 2017

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Iowa

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T., Corey Graves

Somehow we're less than two weeks away from Extreme Rules and that means it's time to start building the pay per view card. We already have a five man main event for the #1 contendership to Brock Lesnar's Universal Title but a pay per view needs a bit more than that. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the five way being announced last week.

Here's Bray Wyatt to tell us all to stand up. The Beast is all around us and he's the only one who can protect us all from him. At Extreme Rules, four souls will fall before him. Bray lists off the four men who will fall, finishing with Roman Reigns. This may be Reigns' yard but Bray owns the world. Eh it was better when HHH said Undertaker's yard is in the middle of HHH's world. Cue Reigns who promises to win and then beat Brock Lesnar. They bicker a bit until Kurt Angle comes out to make a match right now.

#### Bray Wyatt vs. Roman Reigns

Roman starts with a shoulder block using the bad shoulder and has to fight out of Sister Abigail. A big boot sends Bray to the floor but he grabs a release Rock Bottom back inside. Bray adds the running body block but here's Samoa Joe to attack Reigns for the DQ at 4:40.

**Rating:** D. This didn't have time to go anywhere but I like the idea of Samoa Joe coming in and attacking these guys. It makes him feel like a bigger star to be attacking the stronger names and that's the best thing that can happen to him. The match wasn't the important thing here and there's nothing wrong with that.

Post match Joe chokes on both of them until Seth Rollins makes the save. Just announce the tag match already.

Back from a break and Angle does in fact make the tag match. Rollins and Reigns leave but the Drifter comes in. Angle gives him a match with Dean Ambrose later.

#### Akira Tozawa vs. Ariya Daivari

Brian Kendrick is watching in the back and giving Tozawa some tips. They trade some shots to start with Kendrick talking about how Tozawa isn't a serious enough competitor. Tozawa comes back with a big boot and a top rope backsplash for the pin at 2:05.

Noam Dar and Alicia Fox laugh at Sasha Banks for the loss last week but Sasha blows them off.

#### Elias Samson vs. Dean Ambrose

Non-title and Samson gives us a quick song before we're ready to go. In case that's not enough, Miz and Maryse are on commentary. Samson

actually takes over to start with some elbows to the jaw, followed by a running knee to the face as we take a break. Back with Ambrose fighting out of a chinlock and cutting off the comeback with a Fujiwara armbar. Dean fights up and gets his swinging neckbreaker but a hard knee to the jaw puts him down. Ambrose comes back again but here's Miz for the DQ by attacking Samson (just a single tap to give Dean the loss) at 9:49.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to the match again but the ending was somewhat creative. Miz just lightly hitting Samson for the loss made sense and advances the story, which could make for an interesting title match. Having Maryse trying to get Ambrose disqualified makes it hard for Dean to retain and that's how you build up a story. Bad match, good story advancement.

Samson saves Ambrose with the reverse swinging neckbreaker.

Enzo Amore has been attacked.

Here's Finn Balor for a match but first he has something to say. At Extreme Rules we have a Fatal Five Way (he said Final Five at first) but here's Paul Heyman to interrupt. Paul lists off Lesnar's potential challengers and says Brock would make them all victims. Finally we have Balor himself, who Heyman thinks is the most talented performer in WWE today. Paul wants to see them fight and Balor agrees, even though Brock isn't here tonight.

#### Finn Balor vs. Karl Anderson

Joined in progress with Balor hitting a basement dropkick and hammering on the back. Luke Gallows gets in a cheap shot from the floor and Anderson grabs a chinlock. Balor comes back with a kick to the head and another dropkick, only to get caught in a spinebuster for two. That's about it for the offense at the moment though as Balor sends him outside for a flip dive. Back in and the Sling Blade into the Coup de Grace is good for the pin at 6:19.

**Rating:** D. This was as exciting as Karl Anderson holding a chinlock for three minutes was going to be. I'm not all that interested in seeing the Club reunite but this is certainly going to bring up more



talking about the possibilities. At least Balor won clean, as he should be doing most of the time.

#### Sasha Banks vs. Alicia Fox

Rematch from last week. Banks tries an early Bank Statement but has to deal with a Noam Dar distraction, allowing Fox to kick her in the face for two. The running knees in the corner stagger Fox and the double knee drop gives Banks the pin at 2:13.

Post match Dar yells at Banks, allowing Fox to lay her out.

Kalisto, in what looks like a rejected Kane mask, thinks Apollo Crews is changing and even accuses him of attacking Enzo. Titus O'Neil comes in and says he's fine with an international member of the team but tonight, Crews is taking Kalisto out.

We look back at Goldust turning on R-Truth.

Goldust says gold is the purest mineral because its shine never fades. He's back in the director's chair and gets to decide how his next film ends. The Golden Age is back.

Alexa Bliss says last week's attack on Bayley was just the beginning. There's no happy ending at Extreme Rules because Bayley doesn't have it in her.

We recap Reigns putting Braun Strowman on the shelf two weeks back.

#### Apollo Crews vs. Kalisto

Crews kicks him in the face to start, followed by an enziguri for two. The Toss Powerbomb is countered into a rollup for two and a quick Salida Del Sol gives Kalisto the pin at 2:46.

#### Sheamus vs. Matt Hardy

The winner gets to pick the stipulation for the title match at Extreme Rules. Matt clotheslines him to the floor to start but Sheamus takes over in the brawling. The ten forearms set up a running knee to send Matt into the barricade. Back in and Matt avoids a charge into the corner but gets caught in a Regal Roll for two.

We come back from a break with Sheamus fighting out of a chinlock

and using a Jeff distraction to elbow Sheamus in the head. The Side Effect gets two on Sheamus and a jumping knee to the face gets the same on Matt. Sheamus knocks him to the floor but stops to kick at Jeff, allowing Matt to grab the Twist of Fate for the pin at 12:07.

**Rating:** D+. Are we done yet? Like really, are we done with this feud yet? They've been doing the same stuff over and over again now with the Hardys never even seeming to break a sweat against these two. I'm liking Sheamus and Cesaro more and more but they need to actually beat the Hardys at some point to make it actually matter. Matt makes it a cage match. I'm stunned it's not another ladder match.

We look at the opening segment.

#### Austin Aries vs. Tony Nese

Aries starts fast with the elbow to the back but Nese comes right back with a shot to the knee. A catapult sends Aries into the ropes and he gets elbowed out of the air for good measure. Nese's suplex is reversed into a guillotine, followed by the Last Chancery to make Nese tap at 4:31.

**Rating:** C-. Just a short match here to show that Aries can win with a submission before we head to the submission match at Extreme Rules. Nese could have been any given jobber here and it would have been the same story. At least he's not being pushed as anything special on 205 Live at the moment.

Neville beats Nese up and gives him the Rings of Saturn. Aries applauds him.

#### Mickie James vs. Alexa Bliss

Non-title. Mickie wastes no time and sends Bliss into the corner to start before hitting a string of forearms to the champ's face. A basement dropkick actually gets no cover but Bliss breaks up the hurricanrana out of the corner. One heck of a right hand drops Mickie though and the DDT wraps her up at 3:02.

**Rating:** D. So Mickie goes from being this big talent acquisition to being cannon fodder for a three minute loss on Raw? Bliss' rocket

push continues and there's nothing wrong with that. She's so completely awesome in this role and is easily one of the most improved wrestlers in the world over the last few months.

Post match Bliss uses the kendo stick on James, only to have Bayley run in and take it away. She doesn't swing it though as Bliss bails to the floor.

#### Roman Reigns/Seth Rollins vs. Samoa Joe/Bray Wyatt

As usual, Reigns is hated. Joe and Rollins start with Seth getting in a few jabs, only to be sent crashing to the floor as we take an early break. Back with Reigns giving Bray a Samoan drop but getting dropped by Joe. A chinlock and enziguri keep Reigns in trouble and Bray throws him outside.

That doesn't go quite as well as Reigns sends Joe into the barricade, allowing the hot tag to Rollins. House is quickly cleaned with Seth nailing a double suicide dive, only to get caught on top. A double high crossbody takes the villains down but Reigns runs into Rollins by mistake. Rollins and Reigns get into an argument and it's the Koquina Clutch to knock Seth out at 14:58.

**Rating:** C. This would be the latest in the long line of matches that mean nothing but feature people who are going to be important later on and therefore are supposed to make you care. It would have done them a lot of good to slowly announce the participants and give us something to bridge the gap between now and Extreme Rules but that's just not how WWE operates.

Balor comes up to Angle in the back and wants to be in action next week. Angle gives him a triple threat with Joe and Wyatt. He throws in Reigns vs. Rollins as a bonus.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Even though they set up a lot of stuff for the pay per view, it still feels like they're treading water on a lot of the show. This really did need to be a two hour version as the extra sixty minutes didn't do them any good. At least the build to the pay per view worked, but it felt like it took forever to take a few steps.

## Results

Roman Reigns b. Bray Wyatt via DQ when Samoa Joe interfered

Akira Tozawa b. Ariya Daivari – Top rope backslash

Elias Samson b. Dean Ambrose via DQ when Miz interfered

Finn Balor b. Karl Anderson – Coup de Grace

Sasha Banks b. Alicia Fox – Double knees in the corner

Kalisto b. Apollo Crews – Salida Del Sol

Matt Hardy b. Sheamus – Twist of Fate

Austin Aries b. Tony Nese – Last Chancery

Samoa Joe/Bray Wyatt b. Roman Reigns/Seth Rollins – Koquina Clutch to Rollins

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# **Main Event – May 18, 2017: It's Not So Hard**

## **Main Event**

Date: May 18, 2017

Location: Prudential Center, Newark, New Jersey

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Corey Graves

It's the mystery box show as they do seem to have mixed the roster up a little bit for a change. You can only do so much with the same people and WWE has taken that to the furthest limits possible.

Things have been a bit better lately but as usual, it all depends on the Raw clips. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

## **Dana Brooke vs. Nia Jax**

See? Is this too much to ask for? Brooke tries the power game to

start and is easily thrown around, followed by a headbutt. A sleeper works a bit better for Brooke before she avoids a charge to send Nia outside. Brooke scores with a dive but only gets a seven count. Back in and Jax swats her away and stands on Brooke's back for good measure. Brooke fights out of an arm crank and grabs a neckbreaker but tries a fireman's carry for some reason. Jax Samoan drops her for the pin at 5:03.

**Rating:** D+. This was just a step above a squash but I can't emphasize how much better this is than the same three people fighting a random opponent (or each other) for a change. Brooke was trying here and is still rather green but at least she's trying. Jax looked like the monster she should be and her swatting Brooke away made perfect sense.

From Raw for the first time.

#### Intercontinental Title: Dean Ambrose vs. The Miz

Ambrose is defending and we get some Big Match Intros. Miz bails to the floor though and we take a break. Back with Miz hitting his running clothesline in the corner, followed by the YES Kicks. Dean comes back with a suicide dive, followed by a bulldog for two back inside. Miz misses a running charge in the corner, followed by the top rope standing elbow to give Dean two more.

The rebound lariat is countered into the Skull Crushing Finale for the very close near fall, giving us a shocked look from Miz. Dean sends him outside again so Miz hides behind Maryse, only to have Dean dive anyway. Maryse offers a distraction but the low blow is blocked, allowing Dean to kick Miz low for the DQ at 12:02. Dean looks stunned at the DQ for some reason.

**Rating:** C+. That's as obvious of a setup for a No DQ rematch as I've ever seen and that's fine. Miz vs. Ambrose is a good feud and Miz winning his seventh title is a good idea. I liked the match more than I was expecting to and they actually had me for a second on that Skull Crushing Finale.

And again.

Here's Alexa Bliss for a chat. Bliss rips on Newark a bit before talking about what it's like to be a winner. When you're smarter than everyone else and more dominant than everyone else, winning just comes easily. If you're a failure, say what. Crowd: "WHAT!" Bliss: "My point exactly." If she had entered Miss USA last night, she would have walked off with the crown. Bliss: "So Miss USA: you're welcome."

Cue Bayley to interrupt though she knows Bliss doesn't care what she says. Bayley is invoking her rematch clause at Extreme Rules but Bliss needs to make it clear that it won't be extreme pogo sticking. Bliss talks down as only she can and suggests Bayley leave the championships to the adults. A dropkick puts Bliss on the floor but she snaps Bayley's throat on the ropes and comes up with a kendo stick. One heck of a shot to the back sends Bayley outside and Bliss poses with the title. Heck of a segment from Bliss here, who is still on fire.

#### Rich Swann vs. Ariya Daivari

Swann nips out of an early wristlock before a dropkick is good for one. Daivari sends him hard into the corner though and we take an early break. Back with Daivari working on a backbreaker, followed by some more whips into the corner. Swann fights back with some shots to the head but it's too early for the Phoenix splash. Instead Daivari bails to the floor, only to have Rich dive on him there instead. Back in and Daivari's frog splash gets two but Swann rolls him up for the pin at 9:57.

**Rating:** C-. This was fine but totally standard cruiserweight action, meaning it's nothing I'm going to remember by....what was I talking about again? Nothing to see here of course as Swann was the obvious winner and Daivari continues to be one of the least interesting members of the roster.

We'll wrap it up here.

#### Bray Wyatt vs. Seth Rollins

Rollins starts fast and sends Bray outside for a....dive. Bray Rock

Bottoms him onto the barricade though and we take a break. Back with Wyatt still in control and grabbing a superplex. Another Rock Bottom is broken up though and...let's have a graphic for the pay per view match IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MATCH.

Anyway Seth tosses him to the floor for a...dive before Bray hits one of the hardest clotheslines I've ever seen. Another Rock Bottom gives Bray two but Seth gets in his low superkick for the same. Bray gets tossed outside (third time) for a top rope...oh you get the idea by now but Samoa Joe comes in for the most obvious DQ in recent memory at 14:13.

**Rating:** C-. As repetitive as the match was, it really took a.....dive as they kept doing the same stuff over and over again. It also doesn't help that I had the DQ written up before the match started but to be fair, that's the logical ending and the right place to have Joe on the show. Good enough match but nothing great.

Bray and Joe beat on Rollins until Wyatt hits Joe with Sister Abigail to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. So that exists. The women's match was an actual breath of fresh air but it needed more than Jax and Brooke having a quick match. The Raw stuff was pretty dreadful but that's the case with almost everything on that show this week. Then again though it's hard to complain when this show takes all of twenty minutes to watch.

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# Monday Night Raw – May 15, 2017: For Once, This Show Didn't Take A.....Dive

## Monday Night Raw

Date: May 15, 2017

Location: Prudential Center, Newark, New Jersey

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T., Corey Graves

This could be an interesting show as the roster is freshly back from Europe, meaning there could be some severe jet lag issues. The other major issue at the moment is Braun Strowman, whose recent surgery will put him out until November instead of early July as originally thought. Tonight we might find out who is going to take his place. Let's get to it.

We open with a long recap of Roman Reigns beating down Braun Strowman and putting him on the shelf for a long time.

Opening sequence.

Here's Kurt Angle to open the show. He talks about Strowman's injury and says we need a new name at the top of the card to challenge Brock Lesnar for the Universal Title. Therefore, we're going to have an extreme five way at Extreme Rules for the #1 contendership with Seth Rollins, Finn Balor, Bray Wyatt, Samoa Joe and Roman Reigns facing off for the shot.

This brings out Reigns to say he's the Big Dog, Balor to say he never lost the Universal Title and that he beat Reigns, Joe to say he's shown his worth through his actions, Wyatt to say everyone will fall, cower and run and Rollins to say he wants to fight. Joe



obliges him and it's a huge brawl with Balor hitting a big flip dive and leaving everyone laying. This was EXACTLY what they needed to do as they've set up the match with a clear goal and dealt with the next few months without missing a beat. That's as good as it could have been done.

Post break Rollins, Reigns and Balor are all fired up so Angle makes some matches for later tonight: Rollins vs. Wyatt and Reigns vs. Balor.

#### Jeff Hardy vs. Sheamus

Sheamus is in a shirt for some reason and gets stomped down in the corner. Jeff's dive over the top is easily caught though and Sheamus sends him into the barricade as we go to a break. Back with Sheamus hitting a hard knee to the jaw for two but Jeff dropkicks him out of the air and gets two off a Twisting Stunner. Sheamus kicks Matt off the apron but walks into the Twist of Fate, followed by the Swanton for the pin at 8:36.

**Rating:** D+. And I still don't care. Really, we've seen these guys have singles matches multiple times now and I have little reason to believe Sheamus and Cesaro are going to win the titles. Then again that means they likely will get them, which would make them the first team to pin the Hardys in the better part of three years.

#### Sasha Banks vs. Alicia Fox

Banks beat her last week but Fox had her shoulder up at two. Fox kicks her in the face for two to start and hits that great looking northern lights suplex for two. Sasha can't get the Bank Statement and seems to hurt her leg on the way down. Back in and Fox hits the ax kick for the completely clean pin at 3:02.

**Rating:** D. I'm sorry what now? I mean, I'm a bigger Fox fan than most people but I really don't get this one. Unless they're going with Banks losing a match she should win and turning heel in frustration, I really don't get this. Fox isn't on Banks' level and this really isn't the most logical thing in the world.

#### Intercontinental Title: Dean Ambrose vs. The Miz

Ambrose is defending and we get some Big Match Intros. Miz bails to the floor though and we take a break. Back with Miz hitting his running clothesline in the corner, followed by the YES Kicks. Dean comes back with a suicide dive, followed by a bulldog for two back inside. Miz misses a running charge in the corner, followed by the top rope standing elbow to give Dean two more.

The rebound lariat is countered into the Skull Crushing Finale for the very close near fall, giving us a shocked look from Miz. Dean sends him outside again so Miz hides behind Maryse, only to have Dean dive anyway. Maryse offers a distraction but the low blow is blocked, allowing Dean to kick Miz low for the DQ at 12:02. Dean looks stunned at the DQ for some reason.

**Rating:** C+. That's as obvious of a setup for a No DQ rematch as I've ever seen and that's fine. Miz vs. Ambrose is a good feud and Miz winning his seventh title is a good idea. I liked the match more than I was expecting to and they actually had me for a second on that Skull Crushing Finale.

Balor says Roman's yard is in his universe.

Here's Alexa Bliss for a chat. Bliss rips on Newark a bit before talking about what it's like to be a winner. When you're smarter than everyone else and more dominant than everyone else, winning just comes easily. If you're a failure, say what. Crowd: "WHAT!" Bliss: "My point exactly." If she had entered Miss USA last night, she would have walked off with the crown. Bliss: "So Miss USA: you're welcome."

Cue Bayley to interrupt though she knows Bliss doesn't care what she says. Bayley is invoking her rematch clause at Extreme Rules but Bliss needs to make it clear that it won't be extreme pogo sticking. Bliss talks down as only she can and suggests Bayley leave the championships to the adults. A dropkick puts Bliss on the floor but she snaps Bayley's throat on the ropes and comes up with a kendo stick. One heck of a shot to the back sends Bayley outside and Bliss poses with the title. Heck of a segment from Bliss here, who is still on fire.

Angle is on the phone with Sami Zayn when Miz comes in to complain about what Ambrose did. Kurt gives him a rematch at Extreme Rules but Miz wants a match where the title can change hands on a countout or a DQ. Maryse yells at Angle in French so Angle uses some high school French to say he's a gold freaking medalist. Cue the Drifter to scare Miz and Maryse off. Angle: "Can I help you?" The Drifter leaves.

#### Neville/TJP vs. Jack Gallagher/Austin Aries

I would have expected this to headline 205 Live. TJP charges into a boot to the face to start and the heels are sent outside for a flip dive. Back with Neville in control on Aries and sending him outside. Aries fights out of a chinlock (fans: "CM PUNK!") and claps his hands around TJP's ears, allowing the tag off to Gallagher. Jack mixes it up a bit his week with some suplexes for two and everything breaks down. Aries' bad knee gets taken out but he's still able to hit a top rope ax handle. It sounds like the fans are chanting for Derek Jeter as TJP hits the Detonation Kick for the pin on Gallagher at 9:42.

**Rating:** C. If the fans were really chanting for Punk and Jeter, good grief get over yourselves. The northeast is supposed to be this hot bed for indy wrestling and you have WWE giving you a freaking cruiserweight division but LET'S CHANT FOR OTHER SPORTS! That's going to make WWE love the cruiserweights so much and the little guys are going to be SO over with the office. Well done you bunch of pompous twits.

Bayley is banged up when Angle comes in to say the rematch will be a regular match. That's not what Bayley wants though so Angle makes it a kendo stick on a pole match.

Golden Truth fires each other up.

#### Finn Balor vs. Roman Reigns

Before the match we see the full opening video of Reigns and Strowman again. Reigns starts fast by throwing Balor around the ring, only to get kicked in the face twice in a row. Roman misses a

charge and goes shoulder first into the post, followed by a HARD running kick to the face. A double stomp to the back knocks Reigns even sillier as this has been almost one sided so far.

Back with Reigns hitting the apron dropkick to send Balor ribs first into the post. Reigns fires off the clotheslines in the corner and gets two off a sitout powerbomb. The bad shoulder gives out off another powerbomb attempt though and Balor hits a good looking double stomp. The Sling Blade drops Reigns but a Superman Punch is good for two. Balor kicks him down again, only to have the Coup de Grace broken up. The spear gives Reigns the clean pin at 14:36.

**Rating:** B. This felt like a main event match and there's nothing wrong with Reigns getting the clean pin. Balor pinned him when it mattered a lot more and he's a made man for a long time as a result. Also none of this really matters when we're coming up on the pay per view anyway. Good match though.

The lights go out and the announcers are surprised when it's Bray Wyatt on screen. Wyatt wants to slay Lesnar. Oh and he'll beat Rollins too.

Seth Rollins says he slayed the King so he can slay the Beast.

Golden Truth comes out for a match but Goldust turns on Truth and beats him down. Goldust: "That's what's up."

#### Enzo Amore vs. Apollo Crews

Enzo talks about being from New Jersey but Titus O'Neil comes out and does his own version of the signature entrance, complete with a bit of the dance. Cass says hang on a second because the plans have changed.

#### Big Cass vs. Titus O'Neil

Titus is in a suit and beats Cass down but stops to take the belt off. Enzo offers a distraction though and a big boot ends Titus at 1:15.

Enzo takes a selfie with Crews, who enziguris him post match. That only kind of felt like a heel turn.

## Bray Wyatt vs. Seth Rollins

Rollins starts fast and sends Bray outside for a....dive. Bray Rock Bottoms him onto the barricade though and we take a break. Back with Wyatt still in control and grabbing a superplex. Another Rock Bottom is broken up though and...let's have a graphic for the pay per view match IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MATCH.

Anyway Seth tosses him to the floor for a....dive before Bray hits one of the hardest clotheslines I've ever seen. Another Rock Bottom gives Bray two but Seth gets in his low superkick for the same. Bray gets tossed outside (third time) for a top rope...oh you get the idea by now but Samoa Joe comes in for the most obvious DQ in recent memory at 14:13.

**Rating:** C-. As repetitive as the match was, it really took a.....dive as they kept doing the same stuff over and over again. It also doesn't help that I had the DQ written up before the match started but to be fair, that's the logical ending and the right place to have Joe on the show. Good enough match but nothing great.

Bray and Joe beat on Rollins until Wyatt hits Joe with Sister Abigail to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This show's one job was to set up Extreme Rules and they did that in spades with three title matches and the five way being announced. After that, everything else was basically a bonus, including a title match, a team splitting up and a pair of heel turns. That's quite the show and we had some good wrestling involved as well. No it wasn't a great show but it did its job and was entertaining. What else can you really want from a show?

## Results

Jeff Hardy b. Sheamus – Swanton Bomb

Alicia Fox b. Sasha Banks – Ax kick

Miz b. Dean Ambrose via DQ when Ambrose kicked him low

Neville/TJP b. Jack Gallagher/Austin Aries – Detonation Kick to Gallagher

Roman Reigns b. Finn Balor – Spear

Big Cass b. Titus O’Neil – Big boot

Seth Rollins b. Bray Wyatt via DQ when Samoa Joe interfered

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