

Smackdown – April 13, 2000: Jericho vs. Stephanie Begins Here

Smackdown

Date: April 13, 2000

Location: Ice Palace, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's another request and like most of them, I have no idea why it's on my list. We're on the way to Backlash 2000 but this isn't the final show before it quite yet. Other than that there isn't much going on here other than Wrestlemania being over recently, which means that HHH is still champion and is feuding with the Rock. Since it's 2000, I'll bet that this show winds up being awesome. Let's get to it.

Actually I've done the Raw before this. Here it is if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2012/09/24/monday-night-raw-april-10-2000-i-cant-believe-it-but-2000-actually-had-some-bad-shows/>

We open with a recap from Raw where Rock beat Boss Man and Bull Buchanan in a cage to earn his title shot at Backlash.

Opening sequence, which is still pretty cool even today.

European Title: Rikishi vs. Eddie Guerrero

Eddie is defending and only won the title a few days ago. He gives the Mamacita (Chyna) a vase of flowers and makes fun of Rikishi a bit ("WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SAMOA ANYWAY???"). Chyna's distraction allows Eddie to get in some shots which are promptly no sold. A powerslam gets two for the fat man but he hits the referee on the kickout. He loads up the Banzai, but Chyna hits him in the face with the vase, shattering it. That only gets two for Eddie so he knocks Rikishi to the floor. Chyna cheats AGAIN with a clothesline and still doesn't get caught, allowing Eddie to hit the slingshot hilo for two.

With no Chyna to help him now, Guerrero goes after the knee. This isn't that great so far. A Samoan Drop sets up a splash in the corner for Rikishi but Chyna distracts him again to prevent the Stinkface. Eddie dropkicks Big Kish into Chyna, crushing her in the corner. Rikishi no sells the dropkick and superkicks Eddie down before Stinkfacing Chyna. You can feel the STDs spreading just watching that. The Rikishi Driver is loaded up but Chyna hits Rikishi low to FINALLY draw the DQ.

Rating: C-. Nothing to see here. Rikishi would rise up the card very fast over the summer, culminating in one of the biggest WHAT WERE THEY THINKING moments in company history as he would turn heel and be revealed as the guy that ran over Austin. Eddie and Chyna did their thing for a few more months before splitting and doing very little else for a good while.

HHH, Shane and Stephanie think they're going to make Rock's night a nightmare. Rock arrives in the back and the games are going to begin soon.

Here are the three evil ones from the previous segment to the ring with something to say. Shane reminisces about Rock getting busted open on Raw and is proud to be HHH's brother in law. They hug it out even though they're friends, which makes that line incorrect I think. Stephanie says that Vince has a surprise for HHH but who cares about that, because let's spoil it: Vince wants to be in HHH's corner when he defends against Rock.

HHH is flattered but doesn't want Vince there because HHH wants all of the spotlight. Vince can be in the front row though. Gee that's nice of him. Seriously, HHH's levels of smug here are great and one of the top reasons he was so awesome back in 2000. Rock can keep coming back time and again but no matter how much blood and sweat he gives up trying, HHH will crush him every time.

Here's Rock who has something to say (duh). The pop for Rock is absolutely insane and it's amazing how over he is at this point. HHH cuts him off before Rock starts talking and says they'll be having the match at Backlash. I love how we need announcements about where matches are going to be when it's obvious where they're going to be no matter what.

Rock talks about being beaten down but coming out with the shot and he's going to be happy to win the title in front of Vince. HHH says Rock lost a lot of blood Monday (not really) and tonight it's Rock vs. HHH...with respective partners the APA and Boss Man/Buchanan. Rock says it doesn't matter if this is the best HHH can come up with because he'll win the title at Backlash. He promises to win the title at Backlash and that's it. That took fifteen minutes plus somehow.

Earlier today, Al Snow and Steve Blackman went to a retirement home, presumably for a personal appearance. The surprise is that Snow has booked Blackman, the most bland wrestler in the history of bland wrestlers, as a stand up comedian. More on this later apparently.

Hardy Boys vs. Dean Malenko/Chris Benoit

This is pretty shortly after the Radicalz debuted and Benoit is IC Champion. Oh and Dean is Light Heavyweight Champion. Matt and Dean start with the Hardy hip tossing the Radical. Matt takes him to the mat but misses a charge in the corner to give the villains control. Off to Benoit who whips Matt into a corner and Dean into Matt but Dean's charge misses as well. Nice little mirroring bit there. Benoit grabs Matt and starts rolling Germans but the third is blocked. Matt has to take out Malenko (is Jeff asleep or something?) and Benoit dropkicks Matt to the floor.

After a beating from the Ice Man (we're in the Ice Palace so that fits quite well) on the floor, Matt gets an elbow up to stop a charging Benoit and it's off to Jeff. It's also off to Malenko who is immediately taken down and caught by a regular legdrop from Matt and one between the legs by Jeff. Benoit comes back in and tries to powerbomb Jeff but it winds up being a modified Doomsday Device (Benoit as Animal and Dean as Hawk with a powerbomb finish) for no cover as the referee is with Matt.

Benoit comes in and suplexes Jeff down and hits a backbreaker for two. Back to Malenko for a clothesline and some pounding. This is all hard hitting stuff which makes it a lot better. The Radicals take turns hammering away on Jeff and Jeff gets to show off his amazing selling abilities. Benoit drop toeholds Jeff down so Dean can hit a dropkick to the side of his head.

Jeff escapes a German but gets chopped immediately to slow him down. A belly to back superplex by Chris is countered into a cross body for two for Jeff as things speed up a bit. A double tag brings in Matt vs. Dean, with the latter kicking the former's head off for two. Everything breaks down and the Hardys counter a near collision into Poetry in Motion on Dean. Benoit throws Jeff to the floor and Malenko puts Matt down, but Jeff comes back with the Swanton to Dean's back, giving Matt the pin.

Rating: B. For a tag match on free TV, this was pretty awesome. The speed of the match was great and they never stopped moving. That whole thing was less than seven minutes and that's probably twice what I would usually write for a match that long. The Radicalz breathed fresh life into the WWF, which is even better when you consider the WWF didn't need fresh life in the first place. That's why 2000 was so great: they had all this talent AND THEY USED IT!

Angle is with Shane in the back and is told that since he was screwed at Wrestlemania, tonight he and Show are getting a tag title shot. Angle leaves and Shane and HHH chuckle.

Hardcore Title: Crash Holly vs. Perry Saturn

Crash is defending. Saturn brings in a barrel of weapons which Crash tries to empty out. Saturn is sent into the steps and we head inside. A headscissors gets two for the champion but Saturn counters a rana attempt into a powerbomb. A trashcan lid to the head gets two for Saturn and we get a short pinfall reversal sequence.

Saturn hits a flapjack and breaks a crutch over Crash's back. Crash comes back with a tornado DDT for two but a superkick gives Saturn the title. Taz comes out with a cookie sheet to the head to win the title but Crash hits Taz with it to win the title right back and runs away. When Saturn was champion, all four of the Radicals had titles at the same time. This was your usual hardcore mess and not really worth rating. The joke was getting old and would stay that way. Taz and Saturn brawl a bit.

We head back to the nursing home for the actual comedy performance from Blackman. He reads some terrible jokes than only Snow laughs at.

Angle comes out for the tag title match but he has something to say first. He's going to win the tag titles tonight because Show is all dominant. Here's Show...as a Scotsman, complete with Roddy Piper music. Scratch that. He's doing Fat Bastard from Austin Powers 2. After promising to break those "wee fairy sissy boys", we're ready to go.

Tag Titles: Edge/Christian vs. Kurt Angle/Big Show

The champs come through the crowd as is their custom and goes right after Big Show. Considering they combine to weigh what Show had for lunch that day, this goes about as well as you would expect with Christian being picked up in the air and slammed down. Edge tries to come off the middle rope but jumps into a chokeslam which Christian has to break up.

A double headbutt staggers the champions but Angle tags himself in due to Show dancing too much. Angle vs. Christian officially start things off but Edge comes in quickly. Show dances more on the apron while Angle wants a tag, allowing Edge to hit a German for two. Angle suplexes Edge down and yells at Show, resulting in a slap to Show's face. Show destroys Angle and the champs retain via countout.

Rating: D+. This was all about setting up a story and a PPV match between Show and Angle, meaning the titles here meant nothing at all. To be fair the champs had just won them in the forerunner to TLC so they probably were still healing. Nothing to see here but Show vs. Angle would wind up being absolutely hilarious.

Jericho is in the back and sees two women. He asks if they've seen the Godfather, but they're Stephanie and Tori. Well Stephanie isn't wearing a bra so she is being kind of hoish. If I remember right, this is what started the long running Jericho vs. Stephanie feud.

Albert vs. Bubba Ray Dudley

Albert put Bubba through a table on Raw to set this up. This is when Trish was all about her looks, which she lives up to tonight by wearing a schoolgirl skirt with her outfit. Bubba gets jumped coming into the ring but Albert charges into a boot in the corner. A middle rope shoulder gets two for Bubba but a Trish distraction lets Albert kick Bubba in the face

for two of his own. The future Tensai misses a middle rope leg and Bubba kicks him in the face, only to get caught jumping (yes Bubba jumped) into a powerbomb for two. Bubba ducks a clothesline and hits the Bubba Cutter out of nowhere for the pin. Short and surprisingly not terrible.

Post match the Dudleys get beaten up by Test but come back to put Albert through a table to pop the crowd. To put it mildly, Trish's chest looks awesome here.

Jericho tries to apologize but calls the girls fat. He gets a handicap match as punishment.

Back to the nursing home and he's getting booed out of the room. Blackman makes a your mama joke and gets cursed out.

Terri Runnels/Fabulous Moolah vs. Mae Young/The Kat

It's going to suck, it's not going to be funny, let's get this over with. The young girls start with Terri tagging in Moolah. The Fabulous one gets slapped in the face by Kat so Kat gets snapmared. Back to Terri for a victory roll which is countered into a rollup by Kat for two. When I say these moves are being done, I mean that in the stretchiest of stretches of the word. Kat and Terri go to the floor where Kat has a glass of water thrown on her, much to King's delight.

The old chicks come in and have a MUCH better match than the young girls. Moolah is 76 and Mae is 77 at this point. Moolah monkey flips Mae a few times and everything breaks down. Mae and Kat hit stereo Bronco Busters before Kat spears Moolah down and a Mae elbow gets the pin.

Rating: S. As in seriously or screw this or shame on whoever thought this was a good idea to do. You do not have women in their mid-70s out there doing something like this, no matter how sure they are that they can do it. Show some responsibility and say no, this isn't going to happen. Let them be managers or something like that, but this is ridiculous.

Chris Jericho vs. X-Pac/Road Dogg

Before the match, Jericho says that he insulted Stephanie (Tori is ignored) and he was going to apologize, but since he's getting screwed,

he's getting his money's worth. Apparently he and Rock were correct in calling her a ho, but that's not enough. Stephanie is the filthiest, dirtiest, most disgusting, skankiest, most brutal, bottom feeding trashbag ho he's EVER seen. And thus two years of feuding are born.

I miss the King of Rock theme DX had at this point. I also miss Tori in those shorts of hers. Roadie starts for his team but Pac tries to sneak in a shot. Jericho tries to fight them both at once but gets spin kicked in the face to take him down. Jericho comes back with a spin kick to Road Dogg but Pac interferes again.

The Bronco Buster misses as do Road Dogg's dancing punches. The Walls are put on Road Dogg but Pac breaks it up. X-Factor is countered into a powerbomb and the Lionsault gets two on Pac. Chris is rolling now, hitting all of his signature stuff. Tori gets in and is put in the Walls but Road Dogg kicks Jericho into the X-Factor for the pin. Too short to rate but this was very fast paced while it lasted.

Shane EXPLODES on Hebner in the back for mistakes he's made. He didn't do anything tonight that I can think of. Hebner is on probation now.

Blackman apparently pulled nunchucks on an 84 year old woman. Bad timing here.

Here's Stephanie with some chick in pink. Stephanie talks about how hot the Divas, led by her, are. The chick is apparently her new personal trainer Muffy. This is one of two appearances Muffy would make before disappearing and never being referenced again.

The APA won't tell Rock if they've been paid off or not.

Acolytes/The Rock vs. Bull Buchanan/Big Boss Man/HHH

Rock and Boss Man start things off with Rocky sending both him and Buchanan to the floor so he can stare down HHH. Boss Man saves the Game (drives me crazy when I forget to do that) and it's off to HHH who is punched in the face. HHH comes back with a knee to the face and brings Buchanan in again, which goes about as well as you would expect Bull to do against Rock.

Off to the APA for a double spinebuster on Buchanan and a top rope shoulder for two for Bradshaw. Bull comes back and kicks Bradshaw down before it's off to Farrooq. A Shane distraction gives Bull the advantage again and it's off to Boss Man. After some double teaming, here's HHH to stomp Farrooq down in the corner. Earl Hebner breaks it up, causing Shane to freak out. Earl BLASTS Shane and HHH snaps, allowing Farrooq to make the comeback. That goes nowhere but Rock breaks up a Pedigree attempt, giving Farrooq the chance to tag Rock.

The Great One goes off on HHH with punches and the high impact clotheslines. Everything breaks down as Rock loads up the Rock Bottom. After some brawling, it's only HHH left against all three guys. The fans freaking out over HHH's impending destruction is great. Unfortunately it doesn't happen because DX runs in for the big brawl and the match is thrown out somewhere in there.

Rating: C-. This was your usual main event tag match with a screwy ending. The fans were erupting for any sign of fighting between HHH vs. Rock, which is why it was even better when the title match at Backlash was great stuff. There's a reason this was the top feud for years in the company and it never gets old. The other guys being there didn't help anything though.

Rock Rock Bottoms Shane through the announce table to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. Just like Monday there wasn't anything great here but this was a better show with some better matches. Announcing the title match always makes things feel bigger and this was no exception. 2000 was a great time for the company but it wouldn't really hit its stride for a few more weeks. After Backlash though it's great stuff (save for King of the Ring) until the end of the year. Watchable show here but nothing great at all.

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Monday Night Raw – April 10, 2000: I Can't Believe It, But 2000 Actually Had Some Bad Shows

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 10, 2000

Location: National Car Rental Center, Sunrise, Florida

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Well after that mess of a 2002 show I just did, this is my reward I guess. We're just after Wrestlemania and HHH is still champion. Other than that there isn't much to say other than we need an opponent for the title at Backlash. I'm not sure why this was requested by given that it's 2000, I'd bet on it being something to do with the Rock. Let's get to it.

Here's Rock to open the show and the place erupts. We're near Miami so that has something to do with it I'm sure. Rock has video from last week of Vince which has nothing to do with a 900lb tuna and a pair of chopsticks. It's from Smackdown with Vince hitting a referee to keep Rock from pinning I think Road Dogg. Rock laid out Vince on the stage in retaliation, followed by hitting him in the head with a chair. Rock has one more clip for Vince to see, and it's of Vince out cold on the stage with Rock's foot on his chest.

After everything Rock has done to Stephanie and Vince, Rock still wants more. He wants his WWF Title shot and he wants it tonight. Cue Vince with a chair to the ring. Rock says Vince has three options: he can put the chair down, swing at Rock, or have it shined up and stuck in a strategic place. Vince: "I'll put it down, but if you move towards me your head will be like crushed papaya." Who talks like that? Well other than Rock of course. Tonight, Rock gets a chance to earn a title match if he wins a

cage match against someone to be announced. Somehow, no one had noticed the BIG FREAKING CAGE above the ring.

Vince says Rock has to earn everything he gets now and there are no more freebies. Vince wants Rock to think about who he (Rock) is. About a year ago, it was Vince that made Rock who he was. It wasn't the people and it wasn't the Rock, but rather Vince that made the Rock. Rock would have been a star, but not a superstar. Vince thinks Rock would have made a good Doink or a good Gobbledygooker or a GREAT Bastian Booger. With Vince's help, Rock hosted SNL and was on the Tonight Show. All Vince was looking for was a thank you. That's why Vince did it: he was never thanked.

Vince thinks Rock is an ingrate but Rock doesn't really care, albeit in a bit more colorful language. Vince wants to know what's up with Rock's insane way of speaking and accuses Rock of being a pervert. This is VINCE MCMAHON accusing someone of being a pervert that is obsessed with the rectal cavity. Actually Rock is obsessed with what comes out of the rectal cavity. Vince says Rock could take all of what comes out of the collective rectal cavities of the people here, put it in a pizza oven and only then could we smell what Rock is cooking. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS MAN???

Cue HHH, Shane and Stephanie to keep this segment going. Vince goes for Rock with the chair but Rock blasts Vince in the back with it instead before holding off HHH and Shane with said chair. To call this an overly long and borderline bizarre segment would be the understatement of the year.

Tag Titles: Edge/Christian vs. Road Dogg/X-Pac

The Canadians are defending. I love that King of Rock music that DX uses here. Christian and X-Pac start things off with Pac getting beaten up. Off to Edge who hits a spinwheel kick for two. DX double teams to take over and stomp on Edge in the corner. There are the dancing punches and

shaky kneedrop from Roadie for two. A double clothesline from Edge takes DX down again and it's an ice cold tag to Christian. Edge goes to the floor but gets posted. Back inside, Christian tries the Unprettier but Road Dogg hits him with a belt for the pin and the titles.

Rating: C-. Nothing special here other than the title change. X-Pac and Road Dogg never quite worked that well as a tag team but they were trying at least. If nothing else there's Tori in those tiny outfits of hers which is never a bad thing. Edge and Christian would get a lot better in a hurry.

Never mind as the referee see the belt and starts the match again. Edge spears X-Pac in about 15 seconds to retain.

Godfather is with his ladies.

Kat and Terri, former enemies, leave for a girl's day out. As they leave, Eddie and Chyna, the new couple, arrive.

Kurt Angle vs. Godfather

Nothing to see here. Angle talks a bit about abstinence before the match in a funny bit that probably only he could pull off. The girls look good, Godfather does his schtick, the Angle Slam gets the pin in about two minutes. Nothing to see at all.

Big Show is excited and is going to be cutting loose from now on.

Chris Benoit/Perry Saturn/Dean Malenko vs. Scotty 2 Hotty/Rikishi/Tazz

What a bizarre team. Grandmaster isn't in this team for no apparent reason other than a knee/ankle injury. Scotty and Benoit start things off and things speed up fast. Scotty suplexes him down and moonwalks, so Dean decks him from behind. Off to Saturn as the Radicalz take over. Scott

gets rammed into the buckle and it's back to Benoit.

The Radicalz tag in and out very quickly here and Dean gets two off a rollup. Hot tag brings in Rikishi who cleans house and gives Dean a Stink Face. Everything breaks down and it's Worm time for Dean. Sweet goodness was that move over. Benoit breaks up a charge from Rikishi and Scotty puts Dean in a Cloverleaf. Benoit and Rikishi fight up the ramp and Saturn clotheslines Scotty so Dean can get the pin.

Rating: D+. This didn't work all that well. Having Tazz out there didn't fit at all as he did nothing of note, making this basically a handicap match. Then again Tazz didn't really exist as much more than a warm body for his entire run with the company. Nothing to the match and it wasn't anything of note either.

Kat is having her hair done and Terri hands her a spiked drink.

WWF Title: HHH vs. ???

Apparently HHH is giving an impromptu title defense against some random opponent. In the back, Kai En Tai walks through some doors....accompanied by the APA. HHH isn't happy with the bigger guys but the opponent is Taka Michinoku. The Acolytes chase off Shane and Stephanie so Taka jumps HHH and gets in some fast paced offense, including a headscissors and dropkick for two. Taka fires away in the corner and hits a tornado DDT for two.

HHH finally gets in a shot and Taka is in trouble in a hurry. A facebuster gets two as Lawler rips into JR for being against HHH. HHH gets in his traditional argument with Earl Hebner before sending Taka into the steps on the floor. Funaki cheats a bit and HHH is sent into the APA, drawing a great scared face from the champion. The APA destroys HHH and a dropkick from Funaki and a moonsault press from Taka get two. Shane comes back with Vince who tries to buy off the APA, which proves to be a distraction so the Boss Man and Bull Buchanan can jump them. HHH counters

a rana into a powerbomb and the Pedigree ends this clean.

Rating: C. This wasn't awful and while I don't think Taka's own mother would have thought he had a chance here, they threw something different out there which is usually a fun idea. Not a great match or even a good one but HHH was so hated that the fans wanted any reason to believe that he could lose the title, even on a crazy fluke.

The Kane funnycar won a competition.

We get a clip of T&A preventing Trish from being put through a table. T&A destroy the Dudleys in the back.

T&A vs. Hardy Boys

Sweet goodness does Trish look great in white. This is back when she was a shameless sex pot and no one was complaining at all. Test and Matt start us off. This was back in the period when I had no idea which Hardy was which. Matt hits a quick moonsault press for two but Test busts out his gutwrench powerbomb for two before bringing in Albert.

Albert fires off shoulders in the corner and counters a neckbreaker into a side slam. The currently known Tensai misses a middle rope legdrop and there's the hot tag to Jeff. It doesn't quite matter though as Test kills him with a clothesline, followed by a nice note from the referee that they have two minutes left. Everything breaks down and Test is sent to the floor. The Twist and Swanton out of nowhere get the pin on Albert in far less than two minutes.

Rating: C. This is certainly not a failure due to Trish in her outfit alone. Other than that, the match was ok due to the Hardys being masters of selling, especially for monsters like they had to face here. Test and Albert were fine for a vehicle to get Trish over and they certainly did that pretty well. The match was fine.

Post match here are the Dudleys with a 3D for Test. They load up a table but Trish stares at Bubba to distract him. Albert jumps Bubba from behind and chokebombs him through the table instead, enforcing Wrestling Law #1.

Val Venis vs. Big Show

Show is dressed as Val here which is a rather different look for him. At least it distracts from the horrible R&B version of his theme. Show does a bad sounding Val imitation but the mannerisms and outfit (pink trunks with the V) make up for it. Val tries to jump Show to start and is promptly knocked to the floor. Show misses a running boot and crotches himself on the top rope. A shoulder puts Show down and a middle rope elbow gets two. Val keeps running which ticks Show off enough that Show rips his wig off and chokes Val out for a DQ.

Show gyrates a bit to make people smile.

European Title: Chris Jericho vs. Eddie Guerrero

Eddie is defending in a rematch from last week where Chyna joined Eddie to cost Jericho the title. Jericho says he's happy with the new couple but he isn't sure which of them is the man and which of them has the bigger package. Jericho hits a fast backbreaker to start and the champ runs, hiding behind the referee. Eddie might have dropkicked Jericho low and takes over. Jerry makes some very dated Elian Gonzalez jokes, which apparently were old even then.

Eddie works on the knee and hooks a Figure Four, putting it on the correct leg and thereby making him more proficient at the hold than Flair himself is. Jericho makes the rope and doesn't seem all that interested in selling the knee. Eddie charges into a boot in the corner and gets backdropped down as Jericho makes his comeback. Jericho loads up the Walls but Chyna's distraction lets Eddie roll Jericho up for two. Chyna throws Eddie the belt but before Eddie can hit Jericho, Eddie is knocked into the referee. Jericho hits the Lionsault but Chyna takes out Jericho

with a DDT, letting Eddie get the pin to retain, just like last week.

Rating: C-. For a Jericho vs. Guerrero match, I was expecting a lot better performance here. This was almost the same match as last week which doesn't exactly make me care about the feud that much. Chyna and Eddie went on to have a pretty big run together which was pretty entertaining at the same time. Not a great match here and Jericho's non-selling was annoying.

The cage is lowered.

Terri wakes up the Kat who has short green hair now. Kat screams so Terri hands her a dog.

The Rock vs. ???

It's pin/submission/escape here. The opponent(s) are Boss Man and Buchanan, as introduced by HHH and company. Rock fires away on both guys to start before the numbers catch up with him. Both guys beat him down and go for the escape but Rock pulls them both down in a nice display of athleticism. Rock goes to escape but Shane climbs the cage for the save, allowing Buchanan to crotch Rock for the real stop.

A legdrop gets two for Buchanan and Rock is still in trouble. Gee, who would have bet on him getting beaten down this much to start? The ax kick from Bull puts Rock down again for two from both big guys and they're getting frustrated three minutes into the match. There's a double suplex to Rock and things slow down a lot. A lot of choking ensues and Rock is sent into the cage.

Buchanan tries the one cool move he can do, a spinning clothesline off the top, but it hits Boss Man by mistake. Rock makes his comeback and hits a Samoan Drop on Bull for two before walking into a sidewalk slam from Boss Man for two. Rock knocks Boss Man down and sees Buchanan trying

to leave. He hits Bull in the back and catches a jumping Bull in a Rock Bottom for the pin out of nowhere.

Rating: C. Did anyone not know the ending from the opening bell here? The fans were into it but it doesn't do much this many years later. At the end of the day there was no way Rock wasn't winning here off a Rock Bottom out of nowhere. It sets up HHH vs. Rock though at one of the best shows ever so I can't complain much about that.

Post match HHH and Shane destroy Rock with brass knuckles and a Pedigree. Rock is busted open and HHH says he's done playing with him. The APA comes out to save Rock from a Pedigree on a chair and chase off HHH and Shane to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was a pretty weak show overall, but it would set up the best feud HHH ever had over the summer. HHH was just so freaking good at this point as one of the best heels of all time. You pair him with a guy as insanely popular as the Rock and there was no way they weren't going to give you one of the best feuds ever. This show however was pretty dull with most of the matches not working and the main event being predictable. It set up better stuff down the road though so at least there's that.

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