

Monday Night Raw – December 11, 1995: GET TO JANUARY ALREADY!

Monday Night Raw

Date: December 11, 1995

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Attendance: 4,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

It's the go home show for In Your House V and thank goodness for that. This show will see Bret Hart facing Bob Backlund in a non-title match which could range anywhere from a great display of wrestling psychology to one of the most boring matches you'll see this year. Other than that we're probably in for some bad wrestling from one note characters. Let's get to it.

Vince and the King talk about how Bob Backlund is spreading a disease called the crossface chickenwing and Bret Hart hopes to have the cure.

Shawn Michaels will talk tonight.

Opening sequence.

Owen Hart vs. Jeff Hardy

Owen has Yokozuna, Jim Cornette and Mr. Fuji in his corner. A knee to the ribs puts Jeff down as we see Diesel watching in the back. Owen punches him in the ropes and a missile dropkick makes things even worse. Hart teases the Sharpshooter but decides to just cover Jeff to make him obsolete.

Post match Yokozuna hits a Banzai Drop to leave Hardy broken. Am I allowed to say that? Owen gives him a bonus Sharpshooter, drawing out Diesel for the save. I can always go with a fired up Diesel hitting people at a run.

Aja Kong vs. Chapparita Asari

Asari is rather tiny, especially next to the monster Kong. Things start fast with Asari handspringing into back to back mule kicks, only to be run over by a Vader style standing splash. A hard right hand to the face sets up a harder suplex to plant Asari. Kong goes a bit ahead of her time with a package piledriver for two as King makes fat jokes because men in wrestling are horrible people. Aja misses a splash but avoids the Sky Twister Press (it's as cool as it sounds) and SMASHES Asari with a spinning backfist for the pin and a lot of blood from Asari's nose.

Rating: B. This was a squash but sweet goodness Aja Kong looked amazing with those hard hitting shots. Asari was destroyed but when your two moves are a handspring mule kick and the Sky Twister Press, I can only be so critical. Kong probably would have been Women's Champion after beating Alundra Blayze if Alundra wasn't a week away from trashing the title on Nitro.

Todd Pettengill sits down with Shawn Michaels, who says he's feeling better and his symptoms are going away. Shawn thinks he's awesome but Todd cuts him off by saying he had a great career without being WWF World Champion. Michaels says he's got goals to achieve but Todd mentions retirement and Shawn is done talking.

Ahmed Johnson vs. Rick Stockhauser

The spinebuster and Pearl River Plunge wrap up the jobber in about a minute.

Post match Johnson says he's ready for Dean Douglas but calls himself a man of few words. No arguments there.

And now, the bizarre portion of our show. We go to a kid looking at a police lineup consisting of Razor Ramon, Yokozuna, Hakushi, another wrestler and a normal person in Santa Claus outfits. The kid identifies the one in the middle as the man who told him that smoking is good for you, all wrestlers are wimps and SANTA CLAUS ISN'T REAL. The wrestlers then procede to BEAT THE MAN HALF TO DEATH, including Razor loading him up for a Razor's Edge on the concrete floor. "Happy Holidays from the

WWF!"

Raw Bowl ad. I still have no idea why I'm supposed to be interested in a football themed show, but I could go for Freddie Blassie as a football coach every day.

Here are Ted DiBiase, Sid and the 1-2-3 Kid for a chat. DiBiase says they're one big happy family and Razor isn't going to get his hands on the Kid without Sid being right there waiting on him. Kid knows you don't worry about the fans because all that matters is the money you make from winning. Sid is ready for anything Razor and Jannetty can do because he and Kid are family. The beating is going to be fun and Sid is going to enjoy it. That's about it as this feud really isn't doing much for me.

Bob Backlund vs. Bret Hart

Non-title. British Bulldog's wife/Bret's sister Diana Smith is in the audience. Bret takes it to the mat to start and Backlund bails to the ropes. A headscissors slows Bret down but he comes right back with a front facelock. We go split screen to see Lawler interviewing Diana Smith and she doesn't have much to say, as usual. To be fair she wasn't a performer and it's not fair to expect her to be a great talker.

The dull wrestling continues as the lights seem to get dark, implying that the fans are leaving. We take a quick break and come back with Bob holding his back on the floor. Bob starts in on the arm with the chickenwing but Bret is quickly in the ropes. Lawler spends this section of the match talking about music as we hit the armbar on Bret.

A Fujiwara Armbar kills even more time and we hear about Frank Sinatra's birthday. The armbaring continues as this is dying before my eyes. Not before the fans' eyes as they're likely asleep at home by this point. Another break takes us to Bret coming back with his usual but Bulldog comes in for the DQ.

Rating: D. For a pairing that should give you a dream match, these two really don't put up great matches most of the time they're together. Maybe it's the styles being too similar, maybe it's the expectations the match creates or maybe they just don't have chemistry but for some reason

these two know how to bore the heck out of the audience more often than not. I can go for a technical style such as their Survivor Series 1994 match but this was just boring.

Backlund puts on the crossface chickenwing as Bulldog stomps away a lot to wrap up the show.

Overall Rating: D. GET TO JANUARY ALREADY! This month and the build to this horrible pay per view feels like it's been going on for eighteen years now and the show still isn't interesting. We have a rematch from three years ago, an uninteresting tag match and Owen Hart vs. Diesel and a few other matches that didn't get time tonight (and likely shouldn't have). The show itself would be better than the TV this month but that's really not saying much given how boring this stuff has been lately. Another bad show to add to the December pile.

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