

# Monday Night Raw – June 24, 1996: Kloudy With A Chance Of Stars

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 24, 1996

Location: Brown County Expo, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Attendance: 4,660

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

We're done with the King Of The Ring and that means King Austin, who gave what would wind up being one of the most important promos in wrestling history. Other than that, Shawn Michaels has vanquished the British Bulldog and needs someone else to come after him for the WWF Title. Let's get to it.

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

## Ahmed Johnson vs. Hunter Hearst Helmsley

Johnson's newly won Intercontinental Title isn't on the line. Johnson works on the arm to start and shoulders Helmsley down. A headlock grinds Helmsley down and a clothesline drops him even harder. Helmsley avoids a charge though and Johnson is sent outside, where he gets sent into the steps. Johnson gets posted and then ax handled in the back as we go split screen to Goldust and Marlena. Goldust is mad about losing his title and he's ready to bury Undertaker in his own casket. Helmsley's chinlock goes on and we take a break.

We come back with Johnson fighting out of the corner but missing a charge into a different corner. Johnson pulls him out of the air for an atomic drop, setting up the gorilla press for two. Helmsley backdrops his way out of a Pearl River Plunge attempt and they both get a breather. Back up and Helmsley tries a backdrop, which is reversed into a Pearl

River Plunge to retain the title at 13:04.

**Rating:** C. Johnson was someone who was at his best when he was able to go out there and showcase his incredible athleticism and that wasn't really the case here. At the same time, it was all about Johnson getting over as a force as the new champion and this worked well enough, though having it be a non-title match doesn't make a ton of sense.

Post match Johnson says he is proud to be the first African American Intercontinental Champion (geez that took awhile) and is ready to beat up Goldust again.

### Bodydonnas vs. Brooklyn Brawler/Jerry Fox

The Bodydonnas debut Kloudy, their new manager, who is rather large and tattooed. Sunny, on commentary, is not pleased in the slightest. Zip hiptosses and slams the Brawler to start but Brawler is back up with a headlock. Skip comes in for a running neckbreaker to Fox, who gets taken into the wrong corner. Zip's gutwrench powerbomb gets two and a top rope seated senton finishes at 3:53.

**Rating:** C. Good enough here, as the idea behind Kloudy is pretty clear right from the start. Unfortunately the other thing that is obvious is how one note that the whole thing is and I can't imagine it going well. The team was only so good in the first place and having Kloudy going after Sunny (I'm sure you get the HILARIOUS play on words) is only going to get them so far.

Post match Kloudy chases Sunny off.

We look at the history of Shawn Michaels vs. Marty Jannetty.

Kloudy chases Lawler off too.

### Vader/Owen Hart/Davey Boy Smith vs. Aldo Montoya/Savio Vega/Barry Horowitz

Jim Cornette and Diana Smith are here with the villains. Horowitz hiptosses Hart to start and it's quickly off to Vega vs. Bulldog. Vega takes him over with an armdrag but Vader comes in to hammer away. A nice spinning kick to the face drops Vader and it's off to Montoya for some dropkicks. Hart kicks him in the head though and Vader comes back in for a chokeslam. The Sharpshooter makes Montoya tap at 4:20.

**Rating:** C+. Pretty much a squash here, with Vega's kick to the face being a highlight for the losing side. I do often wonder how these people feel in kayfabe when they find out they're teaming with Horowitz. Montoya isn't great in the first place and Vega is just ok, so they're already in trouble and then they have Horowitz as a partner. That can't be the most encouraging feeling.

Here is Brian Pillman on crutches for a chat. Pillman talks to Vince, saying he doesn't need to get in the ring to make an impact.

### Undertaker vs. Steve Austin

Paul Bearer is here with Undertaker and this is a big deal for the new King. Undertaker slugs away to start and of course that's fine with Austin, who punches right back. Austin kicks him in the face but gets dropped as Lawler is going after Bearer, which can't be a good idea. The fight heads outside, with Austin being sent into various steel objects.

They get back in and Austin is knocked to the floor again, only to get back inside for another shot to the face. Austin gets a whip into the corner but charges into a boot as we take a break. We come back with Undertaker hitting Old School but Austin gets smart by kicking at the leg. Austin wraps it around the post and the middle rope elbow gets two.

We go old school with a spinning toehold to keep Undertaker down as Goldust and Marlena come to ringside. Undertaker fights up but a chop block takes him right back down again as

we take another break. We come back again with Undertaker missing a running clothesline but hitting a chokeslam. The Tombstone is loaded up but Goldust throws something in Undertaker's eyes for the DQ at 15:34.

**Rating:** B-. This was a rare good match between the two of them, with Austin working on the leg, though much like the recent Undertaker vs. Bulldog match, it felt more like we were waiting around for the screwiness. That's not the best feeling and while it's nice to see Austin getting in the ring with a big name, having him beat a big name would have been better. Still though, I'll take a nice match which gets some time.

Post match Austin beats on Undertaker, who reverses to knock Austin outside. Bearer loads up the urn but is hesitant to hand it to Undertaker. Lawler wants Bearer to explain why he cost Undertaker last night against Mankind (by hitting Undertaker with the urn), but Undertaker chases him off to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. With King Of The Ring out of the way, it's time to reset things a bit with Austin and Johnson as some bigger names. That's not a bad way to go, but seeing Undertaker vs. Goldust isn't exactly inspiring. They're still in the weak summer period, but at least they have something to build on after the pay per view. Just do something interesting and get Michaels a better challenger.

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# Monday Night Raw – June 17, 1996: The First One (Or Close Enough)

## Monday Night Raw

Date: June 17, 1996

Location: Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Attendance: 5,000

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

It's the last show before King Of The Ring and that means we need to get the next round completely set. That is likely going to be the focal point this week, which should make for an interesting night. Other than that, Undertaker is going to want some revenge on Mankind after last week's attack. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a look back at Savio Vega and Steve Austin at In Your House.

## King Of The Ring Quarterfinals: Steve Austin vs. Savio Vega

Austin jumps him to start fast but Vega comes back to take things outside. That's fine with Austin, who wraps the knee around the post. Back in and Austin works on the knee but Vega is back up to wrap Austin's knee around the post as well. The leg gives out on a whip into the corner and Vega cranks away as you might expect.

A shinbreaker gives Vega two but his splash hits raised knees.

They collide in the corner for a double knockdown and we take a break. We come back with Vega kicking the knee out again but Austin grabs a quick jawbreaker for the pin at 10:32. And that's how the Stunner got started (on Raw at least).

**Rating:** B-. These guys worked well together and that was the case again here. What matters the most though is of course Austin getting rid of everything Ted DiBiase related, including the finisher. A heel is going to be limited by a submission finisher so giving him something new, like that jawbreaker, is a good idea.

We get a quick recap of Mankind vs. Undertaker.

Vince offers condolences to the family of Dick Murdoch.

#### King Of The Ring Quarterfinals: Marc Mero vs. Owen Hart

The winner gets Steve Austin, on commentary, in the next round. Sable is here with Mero, who backs him into the corner and goes after the cast to start. Mero gets smart by taking him down by the arm and then does it again. Back up and Mero misses a flip dive off the top and Hart grabs the chinlock.

Hart is back up with a spinwheel kick for two and chokes away as we take a break. We come back with Hart headbutting away and grabbing a snap suplex. Mero breaks out of a Boston crab so Hart settles for a fisherman's suplex for two. Back up and Mero grabs a rollup out of the corner for the fast pin at 13:10.

**Rating:** B-. Just like the opener, there was little doubt that this was going to work, as they are too talented for it to go otherwise. Mero getting the push is still a good thing to see, as Hart is someone who can lose a match without losing much steam. Good match here, and that shouldn't be a surprise at all.

Post match Hart drops him with a cast shot for the knockout.

With Mero still getting checked on outside, the British Bulldog and Diana Smith come out for a chat. Bulldog promises to win the WWF Title at King Of The Ring and accuses Shawn Michaels of being a coward. Cue Michaels for the big pull apart brawl.

Hunter Hearst Helmsley vs. Aldo Montoya

Hold on though as Jerry Lawler wants to show what he's going to do to Ultimate Warrior. The beatdown is on, including a piledriver. Jake Roberts comes out for the save and there is no match.

We look at Brian Pillman signing his official contract and he's very emotional about coming to the WWF.

Intercontinental Title: Jake Roberts vs. Goldust

Goldust, with Marlana, is defending. We hit the stall button to start, with Goldust bailing to the floor and teasing going to the back before bailing to the floor again. After a split screen clip of an interview with Roberts, talking about his addictions, they lock up but Goldust rolls outside. Back in and Roberts grabs a hiptoss, sending Goldust into the corner with the snake bag. That means we pause again, this time with Goldust getting in a posting. Goldust gets a little too personal for Roberts, who fights up and tries the DDT.

We go to a split screen interview with Mr. Perfect, who says he'll announce the special referee for Michaels vs. Bulldog after the match. Goldust whips Roberts into the corner and sits on his chest as we take a break. We come back with Goldust working on the leg, including a leglock. That's broken up and Roberts teases the DDT, but Marlana slips Goldust some gold flakes. Roberts is blinded, which is enough to give Goldust the pin at 14:06.

**Rating:** C. Not great here, with Roberts only being able to do so much. At the same time, it's kind of weird to have someone

who is making a run in the tournament lose here, though at least it was screwy. Goldust is doing ok enough as a villain, but it feels like he's about to get smashed by Ahmed Johnson in short order.

Or not as another referee comes out to say what happened, meaning the decision is reversed. Roberts grabs the DDT to leave Goldust laying. That's more like it.

Mr. Perfect reveals that the referee is....Mr. Perfect!

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a show focused on the wrestling and that is a fine way to go. Sometimes you need a show like this and they made this one work well. What matters the most is that they're getting things going for the pay per view, even with the fairly uninteresting WWF Title feud. Austin is feeling like he's on to something though and that should go rather well in the short and long term, which is a nice feeling to have after a long stretch of nothing.

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