

Monday Night Raw – April 19, 1993: They Starting To Get Close To Getting Somewhere



Monday Night Raw

Date: April 19, 1993

Location: Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Attendance: 3,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, Rob Bartlett

We're a few weeks removed from Wrestlemania now and the big story here is a Tag Team Title match between Money Inc. and the soon to be gone Beverly Brothers. Other than that, expect your regular assortment of squashes that aren't the most interesting things in the world but do in fact fill in an hour of TV time. Let's get to it.

Money Inc. laughs off the idea of the Beverly Brothers as a threat.

The Beverlies are ready to bankrupt Money Inc.

Razor Ramon vs Virgil

Yes really. Virgil grabs a hammerlock to start so Razor takes the easy way out by going to the ropes. Razor's headlock takeover is reversed into a headscissors to get things back to even. Bartlett is impressed by Razor not losing the toothpick behind his ear, even as he gets caught in another hammerlock. The fans are behind Razor here because...well...would you cheer for Virgil? A missed dropkick lets Razor take over and it's off to the abdominal stretch.

Razor slams him and gets in the slaps to the back of the head, setting up something like an STF. Virgil taps as Bartlett suggests that Virgil pull a knife to get out of the hold. He finally grabs a rope instead and gets up a boot in the corner. The middle rope clothesline looks to set up a

spinning crossbody but Virgil only hits the mat. The Razor's Edge is good for the pin.

Rating: D. How did Virgil keep a job for so long? I know he was a name but don't you have to win more than one or two matches in your life for that name to have value? He just wasn't interesting and Razor taking nearly seven minutes to beat him didn't look great. Boring match too.

Rob Bartlett has a black eye from the Luna/Sherri brawl last week.

Giant Gonzalez vs. LA Gore

Gore has one of the best, ahem, adult mustaches I've ever seen. Gonzalez pulls him in the ring by the head and hits a big clothesline to start. There's a chop to set up the chokeslam for the easy pin. Total squash, as you probably guessed.

Luna Vachon, in a small dungeon, promises evil on Sherri. We see some clips of Luna beating her up multiple times, including last week. In short, she's just crazy and a fight should be coming.

Tatanka vs. Art Thomas

Thomas has a great physique that you would think would get him a spot somewhere. He sends Tatanka into the corner to start and gets in a few shots to the ribs. Some more forearms to the back wake Tatanka up as Vince keeps calling him Mark Thomas. The Papoose To Go finishes Thomas in a hurry.

Money Inc. vs. Beverly Brothers

Non-title with Vince admitting that no one likes either team. Before the match, IRS promises that there will be no extensions if you didn't file your taxes. Money Inc. jumps them to start but gets knocked outside in a hurry. Ever the unfunny non-genius, Bartlett thinks he's watching the Beverly Hillbillies. Blake works on a wristlock to start and gets nowhere at all.

A shoulder drops Blake and now Bartlett thinks Vince is named Dave. It's off to Beau for the arm work with Blake adding a flying headbutt to the

elbow. An armbar goes on and DiBiase's hot tag to IRS isn't seen. I...I don't know how to handle the idea of DiBiase as a face in peril. Thankfully Bartlett is there with a stupid question about Luna being a woman of the 90s. Savage's advice: "Never trust a woman whose voice is deeper than mine." That's rather logical actually.

DiBiase's arm is sent into the buckle but manages a slam for the hot tag off to IRS. That just earns him an armbar of his own as the Beverlies are looking better than I've ever seen them. I mean, they're still dull, but that's an upgrade for them. A fireman's carry takeover gets two and Blake cranks on another armbar. Some double team choking keeps IRS in trouble and we take a break.

Back with IRS holding Beau in a front facelock as the announcers don't bother explaining how control changed. DiBiase comes in with no tag but insists he made one and that's good enough. A swinging neckbreaker gets Beau out of trouble and bringing Blake back in because now the Beverlies are faces. Beau gets tagged back in way too soon but gets two off a backdrop. Heel (I think?) miscommunication causes Beau to clothesline Blake though and DiBiase steals the pin.

Rating: D+. This could have been something interesting with a better team than the Beverly Brothers but there's not much you can do to get past their nothing status. They never were an important team and since no one cared, why would I be interested in watching them fight the top heel team? Get a more charismatic team in there and this could have worked, but here it was a waste of time.

Vince brings out Bret Hart for a chat. Bret says he was the underdog against Yokozuna but he's used to that status. He's lost titles before and he feels strange without having one on his shoulder right now. Therefore, he's going to get some revenge and first up on his hit list is Lex Luger. He got knocked out by Luger's elbow at the Wrestlemania brunch and thinks there should be an investigation because there's more than bone under that pad. Bret wants the title back too and he's going to go through Luger, then Yokozuna and even Hulk Hogan to be champion again.

Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Phil Apollo

Apollo would eventually play Doink. Bigelow throws him off a headlock to start and hits a running headbutt for a bonus. We're already off to the neck crank as this isn't likely to last long. A dropkick is swatted away and a suplex drops Apollo again. Speaking of Doink, here he comes to spray fans with his umbrella. Apollo gets splashed in the corner as Bigelow is taking his time on this one. A backsplash sets up the Swan Dive to finally finish Apollo.

Rating: D. Bigelow was in an interesting place at this point as he was being pushed pretty hard but didn't break through to the main event scene for the better part of two years. He's fine in this role, but an actual story for him might be nice. You know, like with someone who can bounce off of him well and make both of them look good.

Post match Friar Ferguson comes out for the staredown with Bigelow. THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!!! Ferguson dropkicks Bigelow in the back to put him on the floor. Again: THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!!!

Overall Rating: D. I can't get my mind around the fact that they thought Ferguson was going to be around long enough to get beaten up by Bigelow. Other than that, this was a show where they started to move towards some more interesting stuff, mainly with Bret being there. Star power is one of the most important parts of Raw and if your biggest name is a still pretty new Razor Ramon, you're not getting very far. They're getting closer to getting somewhere, but it's not here yet.

I've already done the April 26 show so here you go if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2013/04/27/on-this-day-april-26-1993-monday-night-raw-1993-with-a-marriage-proposal/>

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Monday Night Raw – April 12, 1993: The Goon Has Been Vindicated



IMG Credit: WWE

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 12, 1993

Location: Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Attendance: 3,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, Rob Bartlett

We're back with the post-Wrestlemania stuff this week and that means the show almost has to be better than last time. This week's show is headlined by Money Inc. vs. the Bushwhackers because this is one of the darkest times the show has ever seen. Hopefully it's better this time

around but I wouldn't get my hopes up. Let's get to it.

Money Inc. pays off the Beverly Brothers for information about the Steiner Brothers. The report: they can suplex, they're fast and they're strong. Oh and avoid the Frankensteiner. How did DiBiase get rich with this kind of bad investments?

Opening sequence.

IRS vs. Scott Steiner

If they've already changed the advertised match to something else, imagine how bad the original plans were going to be. Since it's tax season, IRS keeps his PAY YOUR TAXES speech short this week. IRS bails straight to the ropes to get out of a hammerlock as Bartlett gets into a discussion of toothpaste being thicker than blood. A good looking powerslam plants IRS but Scott stops to yell at DiBiase and that's enough for a breather.

Back in and Scott shoulders him down, setting up an armbar as IRS can't keep up on the mat (Michigan beats Syracuse I guess). The announcers make tax jokes (the height of 1993 comedy) as Steiner gets two off a suplex. IRS elbows him to the floor where DiBiase gets in a clothesline as we take a break.

Back with IRS hitting a piledriver for two and the chinlock going on. And staying on for a long time actually, because that's how you want an opener to go. IRS gets a backbreaker but takes WAY too long going up top for the jump straight into a raised boot, making it look even dumber than usual. Scott starts slugging away and even snaps IRS' throat across the top with his tie. The tiger bomb connects but DiBiase comes in for the DQ.

Rating: D+. That chinlock really hurt things but the bigger problem is this match getting so much time. Their tag matches would be better but the singles matches don't exactly have a spark. It's almost like a wrestling tax man isn't the kind of gimmick you want in a longer match. Just dull for the most part, which is quite a long time for a match getting this long.

Post match the Beverly Brothers come in for the double team but clothesline DiBiase by mistake. Shoving ensues and DiBiase wants his money back. Money Inc. goes to leave and gets jumped from behind. I guess this is a face turn, even though the Beverlies were leaving within a month at the most.

Tatanka vs. Von Krus

Von Krus is better known as Vito and is from just Germany. He spits at Tatanka's feet to start so it's a monkey flip and hiptoss to put him down. Cue Doink the Clown to spray water out of his umbrella as Tatanka gets poked in the eye. Some chops get Tatanka out of trouble and there's the big jumping elbow. Krus hits an elbow of his own, this time to the jaw, followed by a headbutt. A backdrop gets Tatanka out of the already limited trouble and it's off to the warpath, capped off by the Papoose To Go for the pin.

Rating: D. This was just barely a squash as Krus got in some offense to make the match go on a little longer than you would have guessed. Tatanka was still undefeated at this point and you would think that would lead somewhere at some point. It would still be a few months before that would be the case, but it wasn't like he had the highest ceiling in the world.

Wrestlemania report, with both title changes being announced. Not the best idea in the world when you're still selling the replay. Double Doink and Undertaker vs. Giant Gonzalez get some attention as well. You would think some of the actual good things would be mentioned here but that's not the WWF style in 1993.

For reasons I don't want to imagine, Bartlett gets to do an interview with Luna Vachon, who seems to scare the heck out of him. Ok fair enough. She's the woman of the 90s and the true balance between genius and insanity. A few insults to Sherri bring her out for some yelling of her own. Luna says she's a woman of the wild and promises to wipe Sherri across the ring like a fine Picasso.

The fight is on and clothes ripping ensues, including Bartlett's, sending him running off. This goes on for a while with the fight heading into into the crowd until Sgt. Slaughter and Savage break it up. Post break,

Luna comes back and loses more clothes (Savage: "OH YEAH!"). I want to see these two fight, which I never would have expected. Also, this is way further with the exposed skin than you usually get at this point.

Papa Shango vs. Scott Taylor

Fink calls him Skip for some reason. Taylor that is, not Shango. Some right hands and a dropkick just annoy Shango so he drops Taylor with a belly to back. A headbutt to the ribs keeps Taylor in trouble as Bartlett staggers back out and faints at commentary. Shango finishes with a shoulderbreaker.

Friar Ferguson vs. Chris Duffy

Yes he's a wrestling monk who would go on to become Bastion Booger. Duffy gets shoved down to start and backdropped out of a piledriver attempt. Hold on though as Ferguson has to stop to pray. Duffy tries to slingshot him inside but gets tossed to the floor instead. Ferguson pulls up his robe to dance a bit and gets two off a splash, pulling up for some reason. A nerve hold continues this way too long squash. Back up and Duffy tries a sunset flip so Ferguson sits on his chest for the pin.

Rating: F. I know we talk about the Goon, Duke Droese and Aldo Montoya as the worst gimmicks of all time. Let me say this again though: HE'S A WRESTLING DANCING MONK! What in the world were the ideas that DIDN'T make air? This is one of those so terrible it's forgotten ideas and you can see why.

Here are some fan interviews from Wrestlemania. The gist of it: shouting whatever country they're from.

Money Inc. is ready for the Beverly Brothers next week so here are the Beverlies to jump them from behind to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. I still can't get over the monk thing. They're still in the post Wrestlemania lull, which you have to expect for a few weeks. There isn't much going on at the moment and that's fine considering the big stars aren't actually back yet. However, there's a point where you have to have something actually good on the show, but that didn't happen

here.

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