

# Hell in a Cell 2013 Preview

More commonly known as Battleground II. Starting with the preshow match as usual, I'll take and hope for Langston to take the title. Axel has done nothing with it because WWE has decided to have him job to Punk and R-Truth every few weeks. Langston needs to take it and not lose a match at all until say February.

Orton vs. Bryan should FINALLY end the feud and I think they go with Randy. I don't think Shawn turns heel, but I think somehow Big Show knocks Bryan out by mistake and Shawn has to live up to his word by counting the pin on Bryan to end the show.

Punk has to win the match and end the feud. This is another one where the promos are still good, but there's just nowhere else for the story to go. Punk somehow incapacitates Ryback by locking him out of the Cell or handcuffing him to the wall and destroying Heyman once and for all.

I think Cena takes the title but there's no cash in. Cena winning the belt is the best course of action as it gives the title a breath of life and keeps Cena away from the main story. Sandow being absent from TV this week makes me think they hope we forget about him though, because WWE thinks people forget a character in a week.

Brie beats AJ, the fans don't react at all for her big moment, meaning it's time to push her in the main event scene with Bryan and Cena.

I hope the Usos take the belts. They're WAY overdue for a title reign, but Goldust and Cody are on fire right now. I'd be fine either way but I hope the twins take it.

Los Matadores over the Real Americans because it makes sense to job a former world champion and a guy who should be a world champion for the sake of pushing a mascot.

Overall the show doesn't feel very interesting but it does feel like the end for this way too long cycle. The extra PPV earlier in the month really dragged things down and made the stories even longer. A lot of the stories just need to end before they drag on far too long. Things can finally change up for a set of two month programs before we hit the Rumble and the push for Wrestlemania. The show will be better than Battleground but won't light the world on fire.

Thoughts/predictions?

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# **Hell in a Cell 2010: The Last Smackdown Main Event**

**Hell in a Cell 2010**

Date: October 3, 2010

Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Matt Striker

This is being written the morning after the show aired so I do know the results beforehand. The two week "build" for this show makes me think it's going to suck. We also only have five scheduled matches for tonight so there wasn't much to set up coming into last night. The Cell should be enough to make the show draw is what WWE is thinking I guess but the buyrates would beg to differ. Let's get to it.

Guess what the video is about. Just take a guess.

The set looks cool as it has a bunch of stuff designed to look like a Cell wall. I like that.

US Title: Daniel Bryan vs. The Miz vs. John Morrison

Apparently this is a submissions only match even though the name is just submissions count anywhere so it's a bit misleading. Pretty clear Bryan is going to retain here even though he comes out second. Miz has the jacket back again too along with a mic. He's called the Kenny Powers of the show and since he's one of my favorite posters that's a good sign. Miz says without him no one would know who the other guys are. He might be onto something there actually.

Both faces chase Miz to start us off and we get the standoff. Bryan gets a leg lock on him after a nice little wrestling sequence and we go to the floor without it being broken. That's a nice little touch. We hit the formula of two guys fighting while the other is down. Morrison hits the Tarantula but Bryan makes the save. He then locks in Cattle Mutilation for like 4 seconds which probably blew up the IWC even though it wasn't anything that special. A leg bar gets a bigger pop if that tells you anything.

Miz grabs a similar hold in an attempt to counter and they kick each other in the face a lot. Morrison hits Starship Pain (not called that for some reason) onto both guys to break it up. Haas of Pain (LOVE that hold) by Morrison is broken up by Miz. Corkscrew plancha hits (and I use that term VERY loosely)

Miz and we head into the crowd. Miz gets a wristlock and Morrison breaks it up by punching Miz in the face. That's always awesome.

Bryan is gone and in the ring for a good while here as the former tag team fights up the stairs. Miz gets a sick looking Dragon Sleeper type hold around a barricade and Bryan makes the save. I know I say that a lot but that's what we're getting a lot of: a hold for a few seconds and a save. We fight up to the stage a bit with Miz in control. Morrison throws Miz behind the stage and uses the barrier for a springboard to kick Bryan.

Miz literally shoves an anvil case at Morrison to take him down. This is kind of hard to call as it's not quite a mess but there's no flow to it in sight. Bryan is more or less dead on the stage after Miz shoves him on the anvil case. We get it: Morrison does some French training. You don't have to explain it to us every 9 seconds. Skull Crushing Finale to Morrison on the floor and he's out cold.

Bryan and Miz get into a wrestling sequence on the stage and it's a double clothesline. Morrison is up somehow and climbs up the lighting grid and climbs onto the Cell set. BIG DIVE takes both of them out. How often do you get a THAT WAS AWESOME chant in WWE? See what happens when you have the young guys do their exciting stuff? Jomo gets a Texas Cloverleaf on Miz but here's Riley for the save. A cameraman gets taken out giving us the eternally fun camera shot. Miz goes after Bryan while Riley has Morrison preoccupied and walks into the LeBell Lock for the tap out.

**Rating:** B-. Fun here but the quality was a bit weak. I absolutely don't get the point of the submissions count everywhere aspect but it wasn't horrible or anything. It was rather spotty at times but never boring which is the point of an opener. This was a pretty solid match and things seemed to work well enough. The big spots got the crowd going which is

the best thing they could have done. Best possible choice for an opener.

Cole admits Bryan is for real. He toned down the Miz love in this match and it helped a lot. The repetition of stuff isn't his fault for the most part though so I can't blame him for that.

Ad for Legendary. I'm surprised this is the first one since we're almost 25 minutes into the show.

We recap Orton vs. Sheamus, which really shows how stupid it is to have a Cell match for the sake of having a Cell match. Consider the first two matches. The idea of Michaels vs. Taker was that Shawn kept escaping Taker or having help from him. Shawn's psychology in that match is some of the best ever as he was running the whole time and getting in shots where he could. It was like he was trapped in hell and this was Taker's ultimate revenge.

The second was Mankind vs. Taker where the idea was they absolutely hated one another. The match happened so that they could absolutely annihilate each other and one man would not leave the Cell on his own. Those matches WORKED. This match is happening between two guys that aren't fond of each other but are having this match because the schedule says we need to have it. Cena vs. Barrett could have a point to it as that feud has been going on for months. Taker vs. Kane belongs in there. This should be last man standing or a regular cage match or something, not Hell in a Cell.

Raw World Title: Randy Orton vs. Sheamus

This Cell is taller and a bit more narrow. This stat sums things up very well: last year's HIAC show was on October 4 so in one year we've had 5 Hell in Cell match. In thirteen years prior to that we had 16. That sums up this era better than anything I can tell you. Also tell me how this sounds: Sheamus is in a Hell in a Cell match. I like Sheamus but he DOES NOT

belong on this level yet.

Another interesting stat: Orton is the only person to ever win the title inside the Cell. That's rather surprising actually. Yeah they cover themselves by saying Orton is the only person to win the WWE Title in there. Unify the freaking belts already. Having two world champions is so freaking stupid sounding. Also there is a Hell in a Cell match second on the card. Does this just sound wrong to anyone else?

Loud RK0 chant to start. I didn't know there were so many old movie fans in today's audience. Striker talks about speaking with HHH via e-mail. Holy subtle hint Batman! Yeah I'm stretching here since the first 15 minutes of this aren't going to mean anything since this isn't going to end quickly at all. We head to the floor for about a second and the stomping begins for two. NICE slingshot shoulder block by Sheamus to take out Orton.

Orton gets rammed into the cage on the floor and Sheamus breaks out the steps. Now Orton gets a shot with them and we head back into the ring. There's no heat to this at all as it just doesn't belong in there. It's a glorified street fight with a cage thrown in for fun. Striker explains why the ribs are a good thing for Sheamus to go after since the RK0 is a bit weaker if the ribs are hurt.

Turnbuckle is ripped off as Sheamus is in control. He gets a gutbuster onto the steps which have gotten far more focus in this match than the cage so far. And now, in a match based around terror and chaos and pain, we get an EVIL chinlock. Cole points out that Orton is the champion and Sheamus is the challenger. Well usually when one is champion the other is the challenger so at least he can follow basic concepts. He's reached the level of an average 4 year old!

Orton makes his comeback and the fans get behind him again. The crowd is rather hot here which is a very good thing and is

helping this match along. They want an RK0 apparently. Backbreaker out of nowhere and Orton slaps the mat. Make sure there's an orthopedic specialist in the building! There come the stairs again as Striker points out how stupid it is to use the steps when he's surrounded by steel.

Orton counters again and hits a powerslam on the steps. IT'S NOT A SCOOP SLAM COLE! It's good for two either way. The elevated DDT on the steps of course doesn't hit but the one on the floor sort of does. RK0 is blocked and Orton hits the post. This isn't a bad match but it's just boring for a Cell match. Make this a street fight and it's far better. Irish Curse, the backbreaker, hits on the steps. It's on Sheamus' knee though so do the steps make that big of a difference?

Brogue Kick gets two and Sheamus' face is AWESOME looking as his eyes bug completely out. A bunch of chair shots get two. A big chair shot misses and Orton gets the RK0 to pop the crowd. The pale one rolls to the floor though so we don't get a cover. Punt misses and there's a second Brogue Kick on the floor. We're just transitioning from move to move here with nothing in between it. RK0 on the steps ends it. I'd buy that a lot more if Sheamus' head actually hit the steps but you can't have it all I guess.

**Rating:** D+. For a street fight this is about a B or a B+. For a Hell in a Cell match this is just ok at best. It was a street fight (and a good one) inside the Cell. That doesn't mean it's good for what it was supposed to be. This was supposed to be a huge war inside the Cell and by definition, hell. This wasn't the case here and while the match wasn't horrible at all, this should NOT have been a Cell match. Like I said, make this a street fight without the Cell and it's VERY good.

Orton climbs the Cell afterwards and poses with the belt. Cole wants it renamed the Viper's Playground. Striker in a near deadpan voice: "Not yet." Striker is the voice of reasoning.

That's almost scary.

Ad for Bragging Rights ad. It's in three weeks. OH JOY! It's also the night after a Lesnar fight. Yeah that's not going to bomb at all. Nexus is advertised for it too.

Josh has the NXT girls in the back and they're asked if they're nervous. Nexus interrupts them thank goodness.

Alberto's ring announcer brings him out. Again, his announcer has an announcer. That's saying a lot. I do wonder where they get these cars. Cole wants to have his babies I think. Lawler wants to know if he can push 1 for English. That was rather amusing for a change. Alberto talks about beating up Rey and Christian. Gee wouldn't Rey vs. Alberto be nice tonight? Some basic hometown sports jokes don't really work.

Cue Edge's music as Cole complains. Striker says Edge has over a dozen championships. He has over two dozen but why play him up I guess? Yeah he's a face now. Edge runs down the stupid things Alberto has done which are rather true. They get into a Spanglish argument of all things. A Canadian is arguing with a Mexican in an American ring. The first W is indeed correct. And here comes the All American-American. HE MADE THE SAME JOKE I DID!

Swagger points out that the mascot on Smackdown was in fact a human and not a real eagle. Could they please decide if he's a serious or comedy character? Swagger jumps him and Alberto bails. We have an e-mail and this is a match now. The computer has been upgraded it seems. Edge has to make a public apology tomorrow on Raw but this is a match right now.

### Jack Swagger vs. Edge

Good thing Edge was in his wrestling gear. Swagger dominates to start as he had an advantage before we started. Swagger goes for the ankle which makes sense twice because of Edge's ankle injury and the ankle lock. He keeps Edge on the mat and



is in complete control. We hit the apron and Swagger tries to hit a German to the floor. Add that to the international joke from earlier.

When that of course doesn't work because it would nearly kill Edge he switches to an abdominal stretch using the ropes. Edge's eye is swollen up. Ankle lock is attempted as we touch on the ankle injury again which Lawler almost sarcastically says you told us that already. Edge gets us to even but gets caught in the ankle lock on the floor. The running up the corner belly to belly is blocked as Edge hits a missile dropkick, which is a pure face move.

Kind of an odd match here. It's certainly not bad but it's not that great for some reason. Belly to belly by Swagger but his arm is hurt. Swagger might be bleeding from the mouth a bit. Vader Bomb misses and Edge gets the Edgecution. Spear misses and Swagger gets the powerbomb for TWO. I don't remember anyone ever kicking out of that. I think they mistime something as Swagger goes for a Dragon Screw Leg Whip while Edge goes for an Enziguri, making it look AWFUL. Ankle lock goes on but Edge gets a quick counter and spear for the pin. That ended very fast after the knee thing so maybe they were just playing it safe.

**Rating:** C-. Nothing that great here but it was VERY refreshing to see a match between the two shows. This is a fresh match we haven't seen before and it wasn't that bad. It was far better than seeing the same guys fighting again as it actually wasn't predictable. That's something WWE is sorely lacking anymore and switching the rosters up dramatically could work wonders for them. Match was a high level TV match.

Otunga has a plan to help Barrett.

Recap the Nexus angle which I'm sure you're all familiar with by now.

John Cena vs. Wade Barrett

If Barrett loses Nexus is disbanded. If Cena loses he has to join the Nexus. It's kind of amazing that this is I believe his 5th singles match and his first PPV singles match. You can't say they're not pushing this guy to the moon. Long feeling out period to start us off here. Cena gets his dropkick for his first big offensive maneuver. Barrett drops an F Bomb but not an audible one.

We slug it out a bit and Cena sets for the FU but Slater comes out as a distraction. Barrett throws the Nexus out which is an interesting touch. Barrett controls and hits a second rope elbow drop for two. Their colors are now black and gold instead of black and yellow. Neckbreaker gets two as Barrett is finally getting to showcase his offense. This is already his longest match and it's not even 8 minutes long.

Dueling chants begin and you can tell it's mainly men shouting for Barrett and higher pitched voices chanting for Cena. Cena makes his comeback and he initiates his finishing sequence. Nexus surrounds the ring as the definition of interference is getting kind of shaky here. Big Show comes out and leads the charge of the locker room who come out to beat down Nexus. It says a lot when it takes about 15 people including Big Show to beat up four glorified jobbers. And it's not jobbers coming out to beat them up. You have guys like Show, Kofi, Ziggler, Bryan, Hart Dynasty and MVP, as in former and current champions.

Wasteland is blocked and this is a pretty solid back and forth match. Also it's good that they got rid of the Nexus about halfway through. FU is blocked and Barrett hits a butterfly suplex for two. Boss Man Slam gets two. Fameasser off the top is blocked the first time but Cena gets it for two. Barrett gets Wasteland out of nowhere for two. Cole is WAY into this. Lawler says something and I had forgotten he was there.

FU hits out of nowhere for two as we're into the good part of this match now. STF goes on as Cena looks extra quick here.

Cole is SCREAMING at Barrett to tap out. A planted fan runs into the ring, allowing the guy that appears to be Husky Harris to pop up and blast Cena in the head, allowing Barrett to get the pin and kill the souls of millions of children. This is likely Otunga's plan, which he didn't run past Barrett.

**Rating:** B. Solid match here with the ending working rather well. The Nexus wasn't really involved all that much here and it helped a lot I thought. Barrett looked VERY impressive out there with a nice offensive moveset and solid ring presence. This was better than I expected and things worked very well here. Good match and it sets up some stuff for the show in the upcoming weeks. Also Harris and potentially another member joining is a good thing. Good match.

Nexus puts Barrett on their shoulders as the celebration is on. On a replay the fan that distracted things appears to be Michael McGillicutty but I can't tell for sure. The fan that hit Cena was definitely Harris but he's not named. Cena takes a long time to leave and various ages of fans are STUNNED.

Paper Jamz ad, the same from....two weeks ago.

Josh is in the back and runs into Paul Bearer. He cuts a short and cryptic promo about having his own master plan.

Make-A-Wish package from Smackdown.

Divas Title: Michelle McCool vs. Natalya

Michelle looks good in her gold shorts if nothing else. Striker tries to claim Michelle is the best in ring working woman ever. I'm not even going to make a joke about that because it's not fair to make fun of people that stupid. Michelle dominates for a bit with leg based offence but Natalya takes over with power stuff. This is rather boring if you couldn't tell. Michelle accidentally drills Layla and Natalya gets a rollup for two. Sharpshooter goes on, is

countered into a heel hook and is countered again. Then Layla throws in her shoe for the DQ.

**Rating:** D-. Yeah I don't care either. Boring match and not very good.

Recap of Taker vs. Kane which I'm sure you know by now also.

### Smackdown World Title: Kane vs. Undertaker

Taker coming out with Paul Bearer just feels....right. They brawl outside of the Cell to start and Kane controls. Apparently this is before the match starts. Ah there we go. There's the bell. Kane gets a chair from under the ring and beats the hell out of Taker. We fight on the floor again and this is more of a brawl than a match WHICH IS THE FREAKING IDEA. Lots of leg work by Kane which makes sense here.

A big boot eats cage though and Kane is in trouble. Taker hits the leg drop on the apron but Kane gets his low dropkick. The boo/yay stuff starts up as this is kind of a boring match. Old School is attempted so Kane hits him in the leg. Top rope clothesline connects but Taker grabs Hell's Gate. Kane clearly taps but no one calls it. It's not completely on and Kane gets to the floor to escape.

We get a double sit up and Taker's eyes are awesome. More boo/yay stuff as neither can get control. Running DDT by Taker gets two. Chokeslam hits for Taker as his knee is fine all of a sudden. Kane does the same for two. Kane goes for ten punches in the corner, you know the counter, and it gets two as well. WOW that was a horrible powerbomb. Kane reverses a Tombstone into one of his own and the crowd is into it.

And there's an uppercut for the slow counting referee. The referees come down to get him out so Bearer can slip inside. Bearer goes after Kane and Taker sits up. He gets another chokeslam and does the throat slit sign. The lightning and thunder kick on and a light comes out of the urn. Bearer

shines it in Taker's eyes and we have a standoff. Bearer of course hands it to Kane and Taker, like the idiot that he is, stands there and gets his head bashed in by Kane who hits a chokeslam to retain. A closeup of his face on the ramp ends the show.

**Rating:** D. Just like the previous match this was a horrible Cell match but not a terrible match overall. The problem again is the lack of violence and the lack of use of the Cell. However this one was even weaker in those areas than the first one, somehow making Sheamus vs. Orton far better. As I said that one would have been a very good street fight but this would have been boring no matter what.

These two getting 20+ minutes is just not a good idea. Their best match ever was two weeks ago when it was just a big freaking brawl. Them trying to have psychology in their matches and the leg work is always bad and this was no exception. For once though the heel turn makes sense so points for that. Seriously though, how stupid is Taker for trusting Bearer AGAIN? Did he say, "Hey Paul, sorry about that whole burying you alive stuff. We're solid right?" The heel turn was logical here so I'm fine with that at least. Rating would have been about the same Cell or no Cell.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This show wasn't great but it certainly wasn't boring. They had a show here where stuff kept happening the whole three hours and it worked pretty well I thought. The double Cell thing is still incredibly stupid and them talking non-stop about how epic it was just made it worse but that's to be expected. This looked like a disaster on paper but we got a solid show out of it. I don't think it's as great as people have said it was, but this worked FAR better than I expected it to. Fairly good show.

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new book of Complete 2001 Monday Night Raw Reviews at Amazon for just \$4 at:

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# Hell in a Cell 2012: We're In WCW Land So Of Course It's A Screwjob

## Hell in a Cell 2012

Date: October 28, 2012

Location: Phillips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jim Ross, John Bradshaw Layfield

The main event here is Ryback vs. Punk and there's one thing I love about it: I have no idea who is going to win. They really could go either way and as a big supporter of Ryback, I'd love to see it. The main event is in need of a major change, so why not Ryback? The main issue for him though is that the fans are going to have the Goldberg chants going on high tonight. The Sheamus vs. Big Show match should be good too. Let's get to it.

On the preshow, here's Cena to address the AJ/Vickie/Cena story. Apparently Vickie has evidence of the inappropriate relationship which she'll show tomorrow on Raw. Tonight, Cena is answering questions from social media. The first question is about him passing a torch to Ryback. Cena says no but he never had any fire to pass. A TOUT asks what advice Cena would give Ryback for the Cell tonight. Cena says that brute strength alone isn't going to do it.

A Tweet asks if Cena could beat Ryback. Cena asks the fans who aren't

really clear on an answer. He does however say if Ryback wins the title, he'd love the first shot. Another TOUT is about what was Cena's toughest match. Of course he says it's the one against Rock. Cena wants another shot of course. This isn't going anywhere is it? Another TOUT asks if Punk is the best in the world but Cena won't say yes. Another TOUT is from Dolph Ziggler asks if Cena will tell the truth. Cena says the people should cheer Dolph because he used TOUT. If Dolph is here, why not just come out here and fight?

Here's Dolph....or make that Vickie. She says the fans are more confident in her than in Cena because Cena got his hand caught in the cookie jar. Ziggler finally charges and gets knocked right back to the floor. This was free on Youtube and I feel like I deserve a refund after sitting through it.

Now on to the actual show.

The opening video is about the two world title matches, just as it should be.

#### Alberto Del Rio vs. Randy Orton

That's quite the opener. Orton immediately jumps Del Rio and we're out on the floor very quickly. Alberto goes face first into the announce table and back inside we get the Orton Stomp. Orton stomps away in the corner until the referee pulls him off. Alberto throws him to the apron and rams the arm into the bar connecting the buckle to the post. Back in and Del Rio hooks a kind of armbar followed by something close to the armbreaker over the top rope.

Orton's shoulder goes into the post and Randy is in big trouble. Alberto hooks a different kind of armbar to keep control. It's nice to see the holds used being mixed up as watching the same stuff over and over again gets old in a hurry. Orton jumps over Del Rio out of the corner and grabs a rollup for two. Del Rio hits a DDT on the arm for two and puts on yet another kind of armbar, followed by another armbreaker over the rope. This time though Orton shoves Del Rio off and out to the floor. Basic storytelling and psychology there but it worked just as well.

Orton sets for the powerslam back inside but Del Rio hangs onto the ropes. More good psychology there as you can only have Orton or anyone use the same moves so many times before someone sees it coming. Del Rio tries the armbreaker but Orton makes the rope almost immediately. The backbreaker from Randy looks to set up the Elevated DDT but Del Rio counters into another shot on the arm. Alberto tries the RK0 but gets countered into the Elevated DDT.

Randy tries the mat pounding but hurts his bad arm again. Nice touch there again. Del Rio hits the Backstabber for two but the armbreaker is countered into the powerslam for two. They go to the corner but Orton gets shoved off. He hangs on by the ropes but Del Rio hits a double stomp to Orton's chest for two. This has been way better than I was expecting.

Just as I say that, Del Rio goes up and I think is supposed to jump into the RK0, but instead he just lands next to Orton and they're completely out of sync now. The RK0 is countered as Orton is sent into the corner where Ricardo rams the arm into the post. There's the armbreaker but Orton somehow hangs on and rolls on top of Del Rio for two. Del Rio tries the running enziguri in the corner but Orton ducks and catches Del Rio in the RK0 as he comes down for the pin at 13:06. That didn't have the impact they were looking for I don't think.

**Rating:** B-. This was higher until the jump off the top which looked horrible. Either way, this was a very nice surprise with some solid psychology and storytelling the whole way through. Orton isn't great all the time but if you get him the right kind of opponent, which is usually a guy who isn't a giant, he can have some solid matches and this was one of those. If the botch hadn't happened, it would have been an excellent opener. With it, the match is just quite good.

We recap the AJ/Vickie/Cena stuff and Vickie says she's got the pictures to prove the affair happened. Vickie turns around and runs into Heyman. Paul wants the match canceled but Vickie will have none of it. Heyman snaps at the theory that Ryback scares Punk and goes off on Vickie for a bit. Vickie continues to do nothing for me at all.

Tag Titles: HELL NO vs. Rhodes Scholars



The Scholars won this shot in a long tournament. In case it's not clear, HELL NO is defending. The Scholars say that there's one thing for sure: at the end of the night they'll be able to say "WE ARE THE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS!" Funny stuff. Bryan vs. Sandow (in dark gray trunks, just like Cody) starts things off and Bryan hits a running knee to Damien's ribs. Off to Kane for a low dropkick before it's off to Cody for the same move for two.

Cody gets caught in the champions' corner and it's back to Bryan for some rapid fire kicks in the corner. Kane comes in again and throws Cody around again until Damien gets in a chop block to take Kane's knee out. More leg work keeps Kane down but Sandow jumps into an uppercut. There's the tag to Bryan who moonsaults over Sandow in the corner and hits a running clothesline to take Damien down. There are the NO Kicks and the Scholars are both sent to the floor. Bryan hits a BIG suicide dive to take them both out.

As they head back in, Cody grabs Bryan's leg and Sandow knocks Daniel into the barricade. Back in and a running knee gets two for Rhodes as we enter the tag team formula mode. Bryan plays Ricky Morton for a bit as Cody comes in to work on the arm a bit. Bryan punches his way out of the corner but a knee to Bryan's ribs takes him right back down. Off to Sandow again who pounds on the ribs for two.

Sandow's windup elbow gets two (I'm not even going to try to spell the real name) and it's off to a chinlock. Kane: "COME ON GOAT FACE LET'S GO!" That actually works as Bryan almost gets the NO Lock before hooking a drop toehold to send Sandow into the middle buckle. A double tag brings in Cody to face the fresh Kane and the Big Fried Freak takes over. The sidewalk slam gets two and the top rope clothesline kills Cody. Kane signals for the chokeslam but Bryan tags himself in and hits a Swan Dive, but Kane breaks up the cover.

Sandow pulls Kane to the floor and gets punched in the face. Bryan backdrops Cody to the floor onto Kane and misses the running knee, taking out Kane by mistake. The champs get into a shoving match and a pair of baseball slides take out Kane. Back in and Cody hits Cross Rhodes on Bryan but Kane makes the save. Kane is losing it and destroys everyone in

sight drawing a lame DQ at 13:30 for beating on Sandow in the corner.

**Rating:** C+. This was getting good at the end before the lame DQ. They did set up another match later on which is fine, but with all of the teams they've got built up, do they really want to go another month with the same guys? Still though, entertaining enough match here and the champs fighting is almost always entertaining.

Sandow gets a chokeslam post match.

Miz talks about how Kofi brings mediocrity and mediocrity brings the end of civilization, so Kofi brings the end of the world. It ties into a show coming up about people who are preparing for doomsday if that clears up anything.

#### Intercontinental Title: The Miz vs. Kofi Kingston

The inflatable AWESOME from the Mania match with Cena is back. Kofi is defending and this is a rematch from a few weeks ago on Main Event. Both guys try and miss their finishers less than thirty seconds in, sending Miz to the floor to regroup. How much regrouping do you need after half a minute? Kofi jumps over the steps on the floor but Miz kicks his head off to take over. That gets two back in the ring and things slow down a bit.

Off to a chinlock for awhile followed by a clothesline to put Kofi down. There's a top rope double ax for two and Miz punts him in the ribs. Miz's corner clothesline is blocked by a hard clothesline from the champ and both guys are down. Kofi chops Miz down and hits the Boom Drop for two. Miz runs from Trouble in Paradise but gets caught by the spinning top rope cross body for two.

The SOS is countered into half of the Reality Check but they seem to miss on something before the neckbreaker. SOS gets two and Miz hits a kind of Stunner to the leg. Miz bends the leg around the ropes and takes off the leg pad and boot from Kofi's left leg. Kofi gets to the second rope but Miz slams him off and puts on a half crab.

Kofi crawls to the ropes but Miz pulls it right back to the center. The champ counters into a cradle for two but Miz gets the same off a short

DDT. Miz loads up the Finale but Kofi counters into a kind of victory roll for two. The kick misses for Kofi but the Finale can't hit again. Miz gets kicked to the floor and as he comes back in, Kofi kicks him into oblivion for the pin to retain at 10:44.

**Rating:** C+. Another good and lengthy match here as this show is already better than anything WWE has thrown at us in weeks. This gets Miz out of the title picture and hopefully pushes him back up the card. Kofi is fine in this role and can be put with almost anyone to get a good match. Solid stuff here and a fine match.

Kofi says Miz has brought out the wildcat in him and that he's proud to be the champion.

HELL NO argues again. Kane thinks Bryan almost lost because he was thinking about vegan candy. Bryan yells at Kane for bringing up Halloween when he's always wearing a mask. Kane says that Bryan has been wearing a mask since he was born on Old McDonald's Farm....AND HE SINGS THE SONG. Bryan: "YOU ARE IMPOSSIBLE!" Kane: "No. I AM THE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS!" I love these two.

#### US Title: Antonio Cesaro vs. Justin Gabriel

Since we only had three announced matches left and it's ten after 9, they had to add another match or two. Antonio says something in what sounds like German or Swiss before the match. Cesaro is defending and they've traded wins on Raw lately to set this up. Cesaro takes it to the mat as soon as the bell rings before cranking on the arm a bit. Gabriel counters a hip toss and monkey flips Cesaro down.

Justin goes up top but the champ knocks him off to the floor. Back in and a legdrop gets two for Cesaro and he pounds away with some rough looking shots to the head. An uppercut to the back of Gabriel's head gets two and it's off to a chinlock with a knee in the back of Justin. Cesaro puts him face down on the top rope and hits a running knee to the ribs. A double stomp gets another two on Gabriel and it's back to the arm. The crowd is pretty dead for this so far.

Gabriel comes back and takes Cesaro down for a quick top rope Lionsault

for two. Cesaro takes Justin's head off with a clothesline for two. The champ pounds away in the corner but Gabriel comes out with a spinning DDT for two. Gabriel tries the 450 but rolls through when Cesaro moves. Cesaro goes to the floor so Justin hits a dropkick through the ropes for two. He heads back in but dives into the uppercut to knock Gabriel silly. Back in and the Neutralizer retains the title at 7:35.

**Rating:** C. I know there wasn't much here, but having Cesaro run through the entire lower card is a fine way to keep him on TV without having him face guys he's not ready to beat yet. It's also a good way to make him look like more than he really is, which is something Cesaro needs. Imagine that: using jobbers to the stars to push someone higher up the card. It's so crazy that it just might work.

Breast cancer is bad.

Video on Ryback and how unstoppable he is.

Heyman sucks up to Vickie in the back because apparently the Cell has been canceled. Vickie doesn't seem to understand what he's talking about. The match is still on.

#### Prime Time Players vs. Rey Mysterio/Sin Cara

Sin Cara and Darren start things off with Young slapping him around on the mat. Cara headscissors him down and there's the tag to Rey. Cara has what looks like a Mysterio mask on the back of his own mask. The main event for Main Event this coming week is these four teaming with Del Rio and Orton respectively. Yep the card is already falling down. Off to Titus for some power to take over on Mysterio. A double elbow by the Players take Rey down and Young comes in for some near falls.

Off to a quick reverse chinlock by Young but Titus charges into a boot in the corner to let the masked guys make a tag. Back to Cara who speeds things up and hits a top rope cross body on Titus. Cara's spinning armdrag out of the corner is caught by Titus and he rams Cara into the corner. Back to Darren to pounds away a bit more before hitting the belly to back suplex onto the apron for two.

Back to Titus who suplexes Young onto Sin for two. JR says the Players are trying to get a big payday for a win on a major PPV. What exactly would be a minor PPV? Titus yells at Cara in the corner and tells him to speak English, which will probably be a fine for O'Neal. Titus puts on a kind of abdominal stretch before slamming him down for two. Back to Young for a backbreaker which gets two. Titus gets in a three point stance but charges into the post.

Cara hits a kind of standing Sliced Bread #2 and makes the hot tag to Rey. Mysterio speeds things up and hits a tilt-a-whirl DDT on Darren for two. JR: "Keeping up with Rey is like trying to pour smoke through a keyhole." JBL: "Who would want to do that?" Cara dives on Titus on the floor as Rey counters the gutbuster from Young into the 619 and top rope splash for the pin at 12:50.

**Rating:** C-. This wasn't a bad match at all but it ran too long and overstayed its welcome. These guys are a good undercard feud for the tag division (imagine THAT say six months ago) and putting them on here was as decent enough of an idea as you were going to get. Either one of these teams could get a title shot, and that's kind of cool to think about.

Cara may have hurt his neck but he gets up on his own power. Apparently on that standing Sliced Bread he landed on the top of his head.

WWE is promoting a Rolling Stones PPV concert.

We recap Big Show vs. Sheamus. The idea is that Sheamus can't Brogue Kick Show but he wants to fight no matter what.

Smackdown World Title: Big Show vs. sheamus

Sheamus is defending. Show throws him around to start and Sheamus tries to brawl with him. That results in the champion being knocked down into the corner and Show is in command. Ziggler is watching with the case in the back. Sheamus knocks Show to the floor and as the challenger gets back in, Sheamus fires away with all he's got. It does a bit of damage but Show shrugs it off and knocks Sheamus to the floor again.

We head to the floor with Show throwing Sheamus into the barricade. Back

in and Show keeps pounding on Sheamus very slowly. He steps on Sheamus' head and knocks the champ to the floor before sending him over the announce table. This has been almost all Show so far and Sheamus is looking like a ragdoll. Back in and Show hits the Eye of the Hurricane for two. I think he used to call that the Final Cut. Sheamus tries to fight back with some punches to the ribs but Show throws him over the top to the floor.

As Sheamus comes back in, he hits the slingshot shoulder but charges right into a superkick for two. Show knocks him down again with Sheamus only being able to get in some punches before charging into a bearhug. Show gets on his knee instead of picking Sheamus up, allowing Sheamus to hit some forearms. A slam doesn't work at all and the Vader Bomb Elbow gets two for Show. He calls for the chokeslam but Sheamus counters into a DDT but the kickout sends Sheamus out to the floor.

Sheamus tries the ten forearms in the corner but Show shoves him off. The chokeslam hits but it only gets two. Show is getting ticked off now but he can't hook the Colossal Clutch. Sheamus avoids an elbow and tries the Cloverleaf of all things but Show kicks him off. They head to the floor and Sheamus drives Show into the post a few times. Back in and Sheamus goes after the knee before hitting some ax handles to take Show down.

Sheamus hits White Noise and does it with EASE. That looked better than a lot of the AA's Cena hits on Show. That only gets two and Sheamus charges into the WMD....for two. Show tries another punch but Sheamus kicks Show's head off....FOR TWO. This is getting AWESOME. Sheamus gets WAY fires up but the Brogue Kick charges into the WMD for the pin and the title at 21:37.

**Rating:** B+. This was exactly what it was supposed to be: a heavyweight slugfest with Sheamus pounding away with everything he had but it just wasn't enough. I would initially say that Show winning the title was a bad thing but the way they were going with the feud it was probably the best idea. This was a great match though and WAY better than I was expecting. The kickouts were great and the match worked really well. I can't believe I'm saying this, but match of the night so far.

Eve tries to talk to Booker but Booker goes to check on Sheamus. Teddy says Eve is going to lose when Ryder comes up dressed as a witch. Oh ok he's Eve. Teddy says that's one letter off.

Vince is here and Punk asks him to cancel the match. Vince asks if Punk is afraid of Ryback but Punk says no and leaves.

#### Divas Title: Layla vs. Eve Torres vs. Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn was attacked at Night of Champions and Layla had to defend against Eve instead of Kaitlyn. Eve won the title and was accused of attacking Kaitlyn, setting up this. The challengers double team Eve, argue a bit, and then double team Eve again. Eve and Kaitlyn finally start fighting and we get a pinfall reversal sequence. Eve comes back in and knocks Layla to the floor so she can beat on Kaitlyn a bit.

Eve works over Kaitlyn's leg with a long hold until Layla finally gets back in. A hard kick to Eve's face slows her down and Layla pounds away in the corner. A cross body gets two for Layla but Eve throws her into the splits. Eve gets thrown into the splits as well and Kaitlyn gives us a DOUBLE NOGGIN KNOCKER!!! Kaitlyn puts Layla in a Fujiwara Armbar but Eve makes the save. The crowd dies as the match starts to drag. Kaitlyn hits Stratusfaction on Eve to send her to the floor and powerslams Eve down. Eve hits a middle rope Swanton to break up the pin and covers Layla to retain the title at 6:39.

**Rating:** C-. The girls are getting better and they have an actual story anymore, but the fans still don't care. This is MILES better than they were having a few months ago, but at the same time it's still nothing to write home about. Kaitlyn appears to be the future but I'm still not sold on her at all. Decent match that ran too long.

Big Show brags about getting the title back and dares anyone to try to take it from him. That sounds like a match for Ryback once he's done with Punk.

Sheamus is getting looked at.

We recap Punk vs. Ryback. Punk and Cena were feuding, then Cena got hurt

and Ryback was the next best thing they could come up with. It's in the Cell because the calendar says it needs to be.

The Cell is lowered. Cole says the Cell was introduced 15 years ago. My goodness do I feel old.

#### Raw World Title: Ryback vs. CM Punk

I honestly don't know who is going to win here and I love that feeling. The Goldberg chants start before the music hits. Ryback has a red singlet tonight. Not much of a pop for him though. The big match intros inform us that this match will indeed be taking place inside the Cell. You know, in case you're REALLY FREAKING STUPID. The fans get fired up for the Feed Me More chant at least.

Punk immediately heads to the floor and we're in the big Cell where there's almost no room at ringside. Punk gets back in and immediately runs to the floor again. After almost a minute and a half Ryback gets his hands on Punk and chokes him in the air. Ryback kicks him in the chest and Punk is in trouble early. Punk gets a boot up in the corner but a tornado DDT is easily countered.

Punk is sent back to the floor where he tries to get out of the door. Ryback throws him into the Cell wall and then does it again. The Goldberg chants start up and Punk hides under the ring. Heyman distracts Ryback, allowing Punk to spray him with a fire extinguisher and knock Ryback into the cage. The champ finds a chair but Ryback knocks it into Punk's head. Back in and Ryback hits a Warrior gorilla press drop.

Ryback misses a charge into the corner and Punk hits a springboard clothesline to take him down. A top rope double ax only kind of hits so Punk hits a second to stagger Ryback. A third attempt is caught in midair but Punk hits a leg lariat to take Ryback down again. Punk sends him to the floor and hits the suicide dive but Ryback is slammed into the cage instead of being knocked down. Ryback easily breaks up a neckbreaker on the floor but his spear hits the steps.

Back in and Punk puts on a chinlock. We're over eight minutes into this and it's been pretty good stuff so far. Another Ryback charge hits the



post and Punk smiles. Heyman: "HE'S STILL ALIVE!" Punk hits the running knee in the corner and a clothesline to set up the Macho Elbow for no cover. Punk brings in a kendo stick and mocks the FEED ME MORE chant.

Ryback Hulks Up and takes the stick out of Punk's hands. Ryback is all fired up now and Heyman is panicking. The fans are getting into the chant now and there's the Meathook (clothesline). Ryback loads up Shell Shock...and the referee hits Ryback low and fast counts a Punk rollup for the pin to retain at 11:45.

**Rating:** B-. This is one of those what the heck was that endings but it was a good match until we got there. I don't like the screwjob ending and I wanted Ryback to win, but this sets up another match down the line I guess. I don't recognize the referee but I'm sure we'll find out who he was later on. The fans went silent after the pin which is a good thing...I think?

Ryback gets up and murders the referee as Heyman pulls Punk through the door. Ryback catches up to him though and throws Punk at the Cell, but Punk climbs up to escape. Ryback follows him and hits the Shell Shock on top of the Cell.

Ryback poses on top of the Cell to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B+. This was a really good show actually and the ending has me wondering where they'll go next. There wasn't a really bad match on the show but a few of them were pretty slow. The Show title win was a nice surprise and the ending visual of the Shell Shock was good, but it wasn't a classic show. For what it was, this was solid, but it's another show that leads to another one instead of something conclusive, which is an annoying habit WWE has.

### Results

Randy Orton b. Alberto Del Rio – RK0

Rhodes Scholars b. HELL NO via DQ when Kane would not stop attacking Sandow

Kofi Kingston b. The Miz – Trouble in Paradise

Antonio Cesaro b. Justin Gabriel – Neutralizer

Rey Mysterio/Sin Cara b. Prime Time Players – Top rope splash to Young

Big Show b. Sheamus – WMD

Eve Torres b. Kaitlyn and Layla – Eve pinned Layla after a powerslam from Kaitlyn

CM Punk b. Ryback – Rollup after a low blow from the referee

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## Hell in a Cell 2012 Preview

It's time to take feuds that don't belong in a Cell and lock them in a box in an attempt to make them seem more important. Let's get to it. We'll start with the big one: Punk vs. Ryback. This is an interesting one and a match I want to see for one reason: there are multiple options to who could win the match and that makes the match incredibly interesting. I could see Punk or Ryback walking out with the title. From what I've heard the house show matches have actually been decent which doesn't surprise me given the guys in there. At the end of the day I'm expecting Punk to retain but seeing Ryback take the title would be a nice surprise and something I've been calling for for months now.

The other world title match got a nice boost Friday (imagine that: the TV show before the PPV pushing a match) and I'm really not sure what to expect there either. I'll go with Sheamus to retain in a match that's more entertaining than it has any right to be.

HELL NO to retain in another good match but I think the Scholars have a chance of taking the belts. They'll probably get the belts one day, but I'd rather see Sandow get a singles push.

I have a gut instinct that says Del Rio and while those are usually wrong, I'll go with it.

Kofi to retain.

Kaitlyn gets the Divas Title.

Overall this has the potential to be a pretty good B show, but it's not something I'm looking forward to aside from the main event. The real main event that people are looking towards is Punk vs. Rock at the Rumble which I can't see not happening, hopefully setting up a triple threat with Rock vs. Cena vs. Punk, which is what the story would seem to be building towards. The show should be entertaining though, and that's a step up for WWE after the disaster that was Raw.

Thought/predictions?