

Bruno Sammartino In WWE Hall of Fame

According to both ESPN and WWE.com. This is a BIG surprise as Bruno has long since distanced himself from WWE and hates the current product. He's definitely the new headliner for the class.

Ron Simmons To The Hall Of Fame

Can't say I'm complaining. How he went in after Koko B. Ware is another story though.

Monday Night Raw – January 9, 2012 – Comedy, Drama, Suspense, Romance, La Cucaracha AND PLANET FUNK!

Monday Night Raw

Date: January 9, 2012

Location: American Bank Center Arena, Corpus Christi, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's the week after HE IS HERE and Chris Jericho is back. That being said, I don't know what to expect from him. Maybe he'll actually say something this time? Either way, things almost have to be better than they were last week. We're getting close to Rumble time too which is always interesting. Let's get to it.

After a video of the ending of last week's show, here's Kane to open the show. He says people are wondering why he's embracing hate, and it's because the people are in denial. Everyone gets up next to a spouse they can't stand and go to a job they hate and go home to children who are brats. Everyone has delusions of hope like Cena himself does.

Cena represents hope and success. The people should see Cena as unfulfilled hopes and dreams. The people are all liars when they cheer for Cena because they think cheering for an underdog makes them good. Look at Zack Ryder for example: The people made him a star because he's an underdog. Last week Kane tried to drag Ryder to the depths but Cena stopped him. That just delayed the inevitable though, because Kane wants consequences.

Cue Cena and it's a brawl immediately. A clothesline puts Kane outside and they brawl up the aisle. They fight into the back and they're outside. They're over a kind of pit which looks to be a few feet deep but you can see the bottom. There's a production truck and Cena is knocked into some metal stuff next to it. He hits Kane in the leg with a pipe but is knocked into some boxes. He gets up and Kane is gone as we go to a break.

Sheamus/Santino Marella vs. Jinder Mahal/Wade Barrett

All four are officially in the Rumble. The non-main event guys start us off as Cole tries to explain to us what the turban is for because he's a man of the world or something. Off to the Englishman who beats up the Canditalian who is waiting on the

tag to the Irishman so he can hopefully beat up the Indian that he's mad at. There's the tag and Sheamus cleans house. Brogue Kick to Mahal and the Cobra gets the pin at 2:52. This was nothing, and Mahal continues to look like nothing compared to Sheamus.

Miz complains to Ace and Otunga about the Truth attacks lately. Brodus is debuting tonight apparently. Miz wants private security but Ace says he's Big Johnny, not Little Jimmy.

We get a Hall of Fame inductee announced tonight.

The first inductee is.....Edge. We get a video about his career. There's going to be a second inductee tonight as well. Cool.

Miz is trying to get a bodyguard in the form of Mason Ryan but he gets turned down.

Ryder is on the phone with his dad, talking about how afraid he is of Kane. Eve pops up and he says he'll beat Kane up later. He's off the phone and asks Eve for another date. She actually says yes but it's after her match later. Both of them leave separately and a door opens behind Ryder. Kane pokes his head in and then goes back out as we go to a break.

Kofi Kingston vs. Daniel Bryan

Well this is a surprise. This was set up via a video on WWE.com where Kofi questioned Bryan's methods of winning the world title. I hope they showed that to the live crowd. Bryan's weight is up to 210lbs so maybe they're back to faking weights. Kofi hits a springboard cross body for a fast two but Bryan rolls him up for the same. This is non-title if I didn't mention that. Bryan does his corner moonsault so Kofi comes out of the corner with a cross body. In a SLICK counter, Bryan lands in the LeBell Lock and we're done at 1:14.

Bryan does the big celebration again post match. And here's

Big Show. He gets in the ring and Bryan begs off, saying he hated the ending to the title match. The title is too important to end like that. He offers Show a title match anytime he wants. Show says Teddy agrees as well, so there's going to be a title match on Friday, no DQ and no count-outs. Oh dear. They shake hands and Show leaves.

Royal Rumble Moment is the end of 1994 with the double winners.

Justin Roberts introduces Brodus Clay as being from the Planet Funk and being the Funk-o-Saurus. He has dancers and is coming out to ERNEST MILLER'S WWE music. WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I WATCHING??? He's DANCING! I swear I'm not making this up. He's in a red track suit and has a red hat on.

Brodus Clay vs. Curt Hawkins

Total squash and he dances a lot. A cross body ends this in 65 seconds. This is BIZARRE.

Zack Ryder is brushing his teeth and looking in a mirror. He keeps thinking someone is watching him and leaves.

Miz tries to get Rosa and Epico/Primo to protect him. They say no and leave but Punk pops up to NO reaction.

They go to a break here and thank goodness. I need a minute after what I just saw with Brodus.

Jack Swagger vs. CM Punk

Ace comes out and says that if Punk wins, Swagger and Vickie are barred from ringside at the Rumble. Ziggler tonight has to fight Cena to keep things fair. Feeling out process to start with Punk working a headlock but Swagger taking it to the mat. Punk goes up for the elbow so Jack hits the floor. Swagger takes over with his size advantage and hooks a quickly countered ankle lock. Off to a double chicken wing kind of hold and then a waistlock. Swagger is knocked to the floor and

a suicide dive takes him out as we go to a break.

Back with Punk starting his comeback. He fires off some strikes and hits the knee in the corner but the bulldog is thrown off and the Vader Bomb gets two. Another attempt at a Bomb is countered but Swagger takes over again quickly. He loads up a superplex but Punk shoves him off for a top rope elbow...for the pin? I thought he kicked out but apparently not as Punk gets the pin at 13:57.

Rating: C. Not a bad match here despite what the referee shows was a bad call at the end. Not sure if that'll play into the Ace as referee thing or not but it could have been an honest mistake. I mean it's not like Swagger was going to win either way. Decent match and while I think Swagger should go face, he'll be ok as a jobber to the stars like this.

Replay shows that it was a bad call and Cole freaks.

We see the ending of the Cena vs. Kane fight earlier.

Cena and Ryder are in the back talking and Ryder thanks Cena for everything he's done for him.

The Bellas are talking in the back when Ricardo pops up. They brought him all the way from Mexico to give Del Rio a message. Miz interrupts them and says Ricardo is going to draw out R-Truth by insulting him. Ricardo says no but Miz threatens him.

The second HOF inductee: It's still not Savage, but it's THE FOUR HORSEMEN!!!

Here's Ricardo to insult Truth but he's very nervous to do so. He says that Truth's breath smells like a rotten burrito and that's enough to draw Truth out. Truth doesn't know why Ricardo would want to pick a fight with him. Even Little Jimmy thinks he's a good R-Truth now. He asks Little Jimmy if he should let Ricardo go. Apparently Jimmy doesn't like Ricardo so Truth should turn Ricardo into a human pinata.

Ricardo freaks out so Truth asks for a song. La Cucaracha in fact. Ricardo gets WAY into this and even says this is a remix halfway though. Truth asks him to do it again and Ricardo knocks the mic out of his hand. Ricardo takes a Little Jimmy and here's Miz for the beatdown.

Jericho time. He gets an entrance from Roberts and does the same entrance that he did last week. He's doing the same thing he did last week with the whole running around the ring. No mic that I can see. Oh now he has one and the music ends. He poses on the corner and hasn't talked yet. The mic is to his chest...(this is high drama stuff people) and he looks like he's about to cry. He takes a minute to compose himself...and is now crying. The music comes on and he walks out, still not saying anything.

Another Rumble Moment: 98, Austin wins.

Eve Torres vs. Beth Phoenix

Eve has new music I think. It's 10:51 before Beth comes out so they're going to have to blaze through this. And never mind because here's Kane. Since women in wrestling are idiots, Eve gets out of the ring and STANDS THERE. Ryder runs out to save her and they run off to the side of the tron. No match.

We cut to the back and Ryder throws her into a car. The tire is flat though, so Ryder CHANGES THE TIRE. We take a break as Pep Boy #4 keeps at it.

Ryder defends against Swagger next week.

Ryder is still changing the tire when we get back. Call AAA dude. I'm sure they have some luchadores that could help you.

John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler

No entrance for Dolph and the bell rings at 10:59. Ziggler starts fast and hits a quick Fameasser for two. Off to a chinlock and Ziggler does a headstand while holding it. Cole:

“You couldn’t do that King.” Lawler: “Why would I want to?” Good question. Ziggler drops some elbows and does the situps. Cena starts his comeback and we cut to the back where Ryder is STILL changing the tire.

Kane finally comes to attack him and Ziggler throws on a sleeper. We cut to the back again and Kane chokeslams him into the pit I mentioned at the beginning of the show. Ziggler puts on another sleeper but Cena hits an AA to escape. He goes to the back and I guess the match is thrown out at about 5:00. I’m not going to rate it due to the match just being a placeholder for the angle. It was nothing of note anyway.

Cena gets out there and Kane jumps him. He smothers Cena down again and Ryder is just laying on the wooden pallet he was chokeslammed onto. Cena is left laying too. Kane stands very tall to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a very different kind of show but I was liking it a lot. Things were a lot more comedy based than they were last week and it was certainly a more memorable show. The wrestling was just ok but they played things up as over the top and overly dramatic tonight and I thought it made for a much better show. Also the HOF stuff is a nice touch so few complaints here, other than the lack of in ring action.

Results

Sheamus/Santino Marella b. Wade Barrett/Jinder Mahal – Cobra to Mahal

Daniel Bryan b. Kofi Kingston – LeBell Lock

Brodus Clay b. Curt Hawkins – Cross Body

CM Punk b. Jack Swagger – Top Rope Elbow Drop

John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler went to a no contest

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Horsemen to the Hall of Fame Also

I think I can live with this too. Still no Savage though? Really? Wait....Benoit is in the HOF now. Interesting.

Thoughts on this?

Edge to the Hall of Fame

Announced on Raw. Another inductee coming later tonight.

Thoughts on this?