

# Monday Night Raw – February 24, 2003: One of the Best Heel Promos I've Ever Heard

## Monday Night Raw

Date: February 24, 2003

Location: Air Canada Centre, Toronto, Canada

Attendance: 10,000

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

I really do need to stop waiting a year and a half between these sets of shows. It's the night after No Way Out 2003 and thank goodness that means Scott Steiner is out of the main event scene. Unfortunately it means we're further into the era of HHH's World Title run and the start of the Wrestlemania XIX build. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence. I miss Across the Nation.

Here's a banged up Eric Bischoff, fresh off getting beaten up by the returning Steve Austin, to open things up. Bischoff says he's here despite what Austin tried to do to him last night and Austin is banned from the building tonight. JR: "THE AUDACITY!" That's not really audacity JR. Tonight's main event is a 20 man battle royal with the winner going on to Wrestlemania for the World Title shot at Wrestlemania. So it's the TV version of the Royal Rumble? Next week, Austin gets to meet Bischoff's own personal welcoming committee.

As for tonight though, it's all about the biggest star in the history of this industry, and here's Hollywood Rock. Yeah he's a Smackdown guy at the moment, but I can't stop looking at his massive Brahma Bull belt buckle. I mean....dang man. Rock is so awesome in this role as he can turn on the evil jerk persona at the drop of a hat. After nearly four minutes of an entrance and glaring at the crowd, we hit FINALLY but he can't finish saying Toronto, because he's FINALLY back Toron-his mouth on all of us.

He cuts the fans off for chanting Rocky too early before talking about whipping Hogan last night, earning him a free pass to come here tonight from Vince. Rock finally says Toronto and goes into a hilarious imitation of fans being SO happy that he said the town they live in. It was here in Toronto that the people turned on their champion last year at Wrestlemania like a bunch of mother-Canuckers.

The fans chant for Hogan but Rock points out that he's not here tonight. Of course it doesn't matter what these people think, because they didn't vote for him as Superstar of the Decade at the Raw Tenth Anniversary (easily one of the stupidest shows I've ever seen). That award went to Steve Austin, because everyone loves Stone Cold. Everyone that is, except the Rock. There's only one true star of the decade and guess who that is. That's Wrestlemania people. He's as strong as a buck and the biggest thing to hit Toronto because the MAPLE LEAFS SUCK.

The fans aren't pleased with that one and tell Rock that he sold out so he says he's going to clean house in the battle royal tonight and go to Wrestlemania, if you smell....whoa whoa whoa time out. "You were the very first to boo the Rock so you lose that sing-a-long privilege!" Someone in WWE put this on a loop for today's heels, because this is one of the most perfect heel promos I've ever seen. Rock made this crowd do every single thing he wanted and made them hate one of the most popular guys on the roster at this point. Outstanding stuff here.

### Jackie vs. Jazz

Victoria and Steven Richards are on commentary. Jazz goes right after her to start and holds Jackie up for a slam. I can't believe I'm saying this but I'm for Jazz in a match. They head outside with Jackie scoring with a chop to Jazz's chest tattoo. Now it's time for JACKIE TO SHOUT A LOT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE THINKS PERSONALITY IS. Thankfully Jazz takes her head off with a clothesline and gets two off a legdrop. Jazz drops her when trying a sitout powerbomb so Jackie comes back with forearms, only to get caught in a half crab into the STF for the submission. Now stay out of here Jackie.

Victoria looks nervous about giving Jazz a title shot. Jazz grabs the mic

and says she's back but Trish makes her return for the big showdown. She hammers on Jazz as Victoria comes in, only to eat a Chick Kick. Jazz and Trish get into it again and Jerry is thrilled because clothes could come off.

That right there is the mentality that has caused the 2015 Give Divas A Chance idea to be dead on arrival. That's the idea that we heard for so many years and it's what the Divas are thought of as a result. Yeah it's a lot tamer today, but it's still what they were known for all those years. Also of note here, JR says this is the same building where Jazz legitimately injured Trish's leg. That's not a word you hear that often in WWE.

Marketing director Stacy Keibler has Test involved with Girls Gone Wild. My goodness this is such a different time. Test gets to pick the finalists for Ms. Girls Gone Wild. We see a party in a club with Test dancing with the girls and telling them to go wild.

Test and Maven (what a pair) are watching the video in the back with Test saying it was a great appearance after all the stupid ideas Stacy had for her. Stacy comes in and doesn't like what she sees on the tape. Chief of Staff Morely comes in and makes Stacy/Test vs. Christian/Jericho for Test and Stacy laughing at Bischoff's beating last night.

We look back at Evolution electrocuting Goldust a few weeks back.

Goldust says he lived through the electrocution and is going to be back soon. Oh and he has Tourette's Syndrome now but doesn't notice. This isn't funny and destroys whatever sympathy they had building up. But hey, Kevin Dunn is laughing right?

### Kane vs. Lance Storm

Kane has Rob Van Dam in his corner, despite having some issues with him last night. Storm's big dramatic entrance is still cool to see, especially for how basic he looks. Kane kicks him down to start but misses an elbow, allowing Storm to actually pound Kane in the back to take over. A missile dropkick gets two but Kane sits up and plants Storm with a good looking chokeslam for the pin.

Randy Orton's shoulder is now 99% and he's ready to go tonight!

### Scott Steiner/Booker T. vs. Randy Orton/Batista

JR: "Scott Steiner, ready for some tag team wrestling." Sign of the times: he would probably be publicly reprimanded for that line today. Booker and Orton get things going, with the latter looking almost unrecognizable with hair and limited (by his standards at least) tattoos. Booker drops him to start and scores with a running forearm but gets caught in the spinebuster as Steiner chases Flair around the ring. Batista's running clothesline staggers Booker in the corner and Evolution takes over again.

Some right hands stagger Orton and the 110<sup>th</sup> Street Slam plants Randy but a Flair distraction breaks up the hot tag. This isn't exactly setting the world on fire. Off to Batista for a bearhug before it's back to Orton for a chinlock. A quick ax kick drops Orton and keeps the fans as dead as they've been in years.

Since it worked so well before, Flair's distraction breaks up a hot tag attempt. Scott comes in anyway with some clotheslines as the fans boo him out of the building. Naturally Steiner hits a belly to belly suplex to tick them off even worse because he's just kind of a jerk. Flair gets put in the Recliner but Batista makes the save. Everything breaks down and Booker rolls through an Orton cross body for the pin.

**Rating:** D. In the span of 24 hours, Steiner has gone from a pay per view World Title match to not even getting tagged into a first hour midcard tag match. Booker was the right choice out there as the fans hated Steiner even though he was beating up the top heel stable in the company. The dude was a disaster in WWE and it was only going to get worse for him.

We look at Rock being better than any other heel in years to open the show.

### Chris Jericho/Christian vs. Stacy Keibler/Test

Stacy gets one of the pops of the night for a tied off Maple Leafs shirt

and some very nice shorts. Test charges at Jericho to start but Christian cuts him off. A tilt-a-whirl slam plants Christian but Jericho goes after Stacy for another distraction to keep being totally evil. Test loads up a gorilla press but Jericho brings in a chair to take him down for the DQ in a hurry.

Test gets handcuffed to the ropes as the Canadians (well the other Canadians) bring Stacy inside with Jericho putting her in the Walls. Cue Jeff Hardy for the save but Christian plants him with an Unprettier. Instead Shawn Michaels runs in for the real save.

Post break Jeff is still down (how nice of Shawn and Test to check on him) when Christopher Nowitski comes out to laugh at him. After finding a microphone that works, he calls Jeff a failure, only to get caught in a reverse Twist of Fate and a Swanton. The bell rings as Jeff goes up and the pin takes about nine seconds, or not enough time for me to bother calling it a match. Jeff hammers on him post match, meaning it's a reversed decision. They really did that for a nine second match? Dang it really is 2003.

Kane and RVD are getting ready for the battle royal with the masked man ranting about Rock. Rob thinks he'll win though.

Rock is on the phone in his dressing room and talks some trash about Austin. He busts out the guitar for some practice and sings about how much he hates Canada. This brings in Hurricane, who wants to know whatupwithdat about Rock trashing the people. Rock has no idea who Hurricane is but thinks he might be the Hamburgular. He's not impressed with Hurricane though because Rock can beat every superhero.

Hurricane knows one he could beat though: the Scorpion King. "Brendan Fraser beat him!" Rock: "THAT WAS A SPECIAL EFFECT!" Rock says he can fly, which Hurricane says is a good thing because tonight he's flying over the top rope. After the great promo, this would be the start of Rock making Hurricane a bigger deal than he ever was in his entire career.

#### Jerry Lawler vs. Chief Morely

No DQ. This is a result of last week where Lawler tried to save Jim Ross

from a beating. Morely hammers him into the corner to start but Jerry scores with a running clothesline and a backdrop. That's a bit too extreme for him though as Lawler hammers away with right hands, sending Morely out to the floor. Lawler whips him into the steps but gets reversed into the post for his efforts.

Back in and Morely hits Three Amigos (Eddie stole one of his signature spots from VAL VENIS?) for two and a spinebuster puts the King down again. The Money Shot connects but Morely doesn't cover. Instead he tries to bring in a chair, only to have the Dudleys come in for a 3D, setting up Lawler's fist drop for the pin.

**Rating:** D. This was just an angle but I'm getting tired of the announcers in the ring. Lawler wrestling doesn't work so well outside of Memphis as he's just a veteran who wrestles once in a while. Morely continues to be one of the more underrated guys in the ring as he looks perfectly smooth out there and never gets the recognition.

Ross and Lawler talk about Austin being here next week.

Flair gives Orton and Batista their marching orders for the battle royal.

### Battle Royal

Booker T., The Rock, Randy Orton, Batista, Chris Jericho, Jamal, Rosey, Rob Van Dam, Test, Hurricane, Rodney Mack, Stevie Richards, Al Snow, Christian, Jeff Hardy, Kane, Lance Storm, Maven, Scott Steiner, Tommy Dreamer

Winner goes to Wrestlemania to face HHH. Sweet goodness the entrance music was better back in the day. Half the people go after Rock to start as Jericho dumps Test. That guy is just such a loser that the face pushes never worked. Jericho eliminates himself to run from Test though, like any good heel should. Van Dam kicks Jamal out as there's actually a referee in there for some reason.

JR ignores the Corporate Rumble and says there hasn't been a battle royal on Raw since 1995. The eliminations slow down until Dreamer is eliminated like the schnook that he is. Rock eliminates Maven with a clothesline and

Kane nails RVD to no reaction from the announcers. Next up is Steiner tossing Richards and things slow down again. Evolution gets rid of Rob for a pretty early elimination before Batista saves Hurricane for no adequately explained reason.

Snow is out and so is Rodney Mack as we get Rock vs. Hurricane. They trade right hands until Rock kicks him low and dumps him. Booker and Rock go through the ropes to fight on the floor as we ignore everyone else. We're down to Booker T., Rock, Orton, Batista, Rosey, Christian, Hardy, Kane, Storm and Steiner. Rock starts walking up the ramp and goes to do some commentary. Lawler: "He has to be better than Coach!" Orton dumps Hardy but Steiner tosses Randy, only to get eliminated by Batista.

Booker gets rid of Batista a second later and we're down to five in the ring and Rock on commentary. Rosey and Storm double team Kane but the masked guy avoids a charge and clotheslines Rosey out. Storm is out a few seconds later as Rock demands a cameraman watch him drink water. Rock goes back to the ring as Kane chokeslams Booker and kicks Christian in the face. Christian tries a sleeper on Kane but Rock dumps them both to get us down to Rock vs. Booker T. Rock does the Five Time pose but Booker pops up and throws him out in a big surprise.

**Rating:** C-. Just a battle royal here with Rock stealing the show and putting Booker over like a guy of his stature should be doing. It's nice to see someone getting a new main event push, especially when Rock is clearly getting ready for a big showdown with Austin. Most of the people here didn't mean much and that makes for a dull battle royal.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Can we give Rock a two hour block every Monday night to let him do whatever he wants and show everyone how to be entertaining? This was ALL Rock tonight as the rest of the show is paling in comparison. I can barely think of anything else on the show other than Booker winning, which tells me how dominant Rock really was tonight. The wrestling meant nothing here but Rock was pure gold. Find that opening promo though and take notes.

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# Wrestler of the Day – December 2: Hurricane

Is it a bird? Or a plane? Maybe a frog? Not bird nor plane nor even frog. It's the Hurricane!

Shane Helms got his start in the Carolinas along with the Hardys way back in 1991. That's a hard era to find footage of though and since Helms has actually done a lot in his career, we're going to jump ahead to 2000 with Shane part of 3 Count. From Uncensored 2000.

Hardcore Title: 3 Count vs. Brian Knobbs

Knobbs is challenging and has to beat all three guys. Apparently it's a gauntlet match. 3 Count does their dancing thing and then Tony says "Wait a second. How can we do this after what we just saw?" He's talking about Crowbar and apparently it took him three minutes to realize how distraught he was. They talk about stopping the show, and the thought occurs to me that this could somehow be a commentary on Vince not stopping the show after Owen fell last year. If that's the case, this company deserves to die more than anything I've ever seen.

Anyway, Knobbs wastes some time looking for weapons before the match starts. Knobbs is all upset by Crowbar apparently. As he's putting the weapons in one of the champions jumps off the

top with a kendo stick to drill him. By gauntlet apparently they mean handicap elimination because they're all out there at once. Knobbs cleans house and uses the Pit Stop on all three of them. Helms gets a chair shot to take over and sends Knobbs into a ladder in the corner.

Splash off said ladder gets no cover because the other two have to go up for splashes also. Karagis uses a corkscrew one and Moore's Swanton misses. With Knobbs crawling away for weapons, 3 Count turns their back on him for a dance sequence. Helms has a chair on his face and Knobbs hits the chair with a mop to eliminate him. He had a broken nose so that's more painful than it sounds.

It's Table Time and after walking around for awhile, Knobbs powerbombs Karagis over the top rope through the table which more or less explodes. Helms is still around and beats on Knobbs a bit to no avail. Tony calls a chair shot a table shot because he's not very smart. Another table is sent in while Moore is out cold. Moore manages to get a pin when Knobbs trips over something, but it's a DUSTY FINISH due to Knobbs' foot being on the ropes. In a freaking ow man moment, Knobbs throws a ladder over the top rope to land on Karagis who is still down. Middle rope garbage can shot gives Knobbs the title back.

**Rating:** D+. Somehow this might be the match of the night so far and it was a Brian Knobbs showcase match. Why in the world is this happening in the year 2000? And with a freaking Dusty Finish of all things. It was fine for a weapons match I guess, but there was never any doubt of the finish. Why in the world was this on PPV in 2000 though?

Here's a bit better match at New Blood Rising.

### 3 Count vs. Jung Dragons

This would open about 19 Thunders in a row. Tank Abbott is their Rikishi and dances with them. Ok to be fair, this was

freaking hilarious. The only Dragon that is known is the masked one who would become Jamie Knoble. Three Count has one guy that meant nothing, Shannon Moore and Shane (Gregory) Helms. This is a double ladder match where the Dragons are trying to get a recording contract so 3 Count can't record again and 3 Count is trying to get their gold record back.

You have to tag here and it's a ladder match. They stack up a ladder in the corner and do a ton of stuff with that. Both teams hit a springboard Doomsday Device as this is a fun match but you can tell nothing is ever going to go anywhere. Noble does a HUGE dive off the ladder to the floor. Oh and Yang cut his hair and became the resident redneck on Smackdown. This isn't bad but it's certainly is entertaining.

And then 3 Count stops to dance. Jamie hits a nice rana and the other two hit a double splash off the ladders. Jamie gets the record but it's not over yet. Abbott gets the record and we keep going a bit more. I'd love to hear the explanation to a record company that they lost their contract in a professional wrestling ladder match. Kaz and Helms sprint up the ladders but Abbott shoves both guys over. Karagis climbs up and gets the contract. Soon after Jamie would be unmasked and Karagis would team up to become a third team. Abbott leaves with the contract and record.

**Rating:** B. Solid stuff here although it made limited sense with the whole double prize thing but that's WCW for you. These six guys would open just about every show there was without ever getting anywhere at all for it and while the matches were solid, people just got sick of seeing them. I know I did.

Little six man match from Fall Brawl 2000.

### 3 Count vs. Misfits in Action

The Misfits here are Sgt. AWOL (The Wall who most of you likely don't remember) Lieutenant Loco (Chavo) and Corporal

Cajun (Lash Leroux). The band has a new song here that likely could have been a decent hit if sung by a "legit" band, which is either great or scary. The idea of the Misfits was that they were guys that were thrown out of storylines by Russo so they banded together as their only way to have a chance. That works well enough.

And yes, 3 Count gets a match against someone not named the Jung Dragons. Two of the boy band members are Shannon Moore and Shane (Gregory) Helms. The third sucks. We hear about Duggan giving the flag and board to General Rection (Hugh Morriss) and will be in his corner tonight. Yeah I'm sure this isn't going to go badly at all for Rection.

This is a pretty basic match but it's not bad. They're just kind of filling in time as these matches aren't going to mean anything past tonight anyway. The idea here is that the band is scared to death of AWOL so they're going to try to keep him out. Simple story but it works. Leroux was a lot better than he was given credit for. I might even stretch to say he was pretty good.

He hits a springboard X Factor to get the hot tag to AWOL who cleans house. Moore hits a nice flip to put Cajun down and we let the high spots loose. AWOL gets knocked through a table (his signature thing) but not before holding Moore up off the ground purely by his hair. Everything goes insane and Leroux hits Helms with what we would more or less call Cradle Shock for the pin. They get a standing ovation for it and that's what they deserved.

**Rating:** B. I REALLY liked this. There was no interference, there was nothing completely insane, the effort was there and the wrestling was there. What a shock that when you put all this together, you get a good match. Worst thing is I can more or less guarantee this is the high point of the show.

3 Count split up soon after this and Helms became a big deal in the

Cruiserweight division. Here's hit title shot at Greed.

### Cruiserweight Title: Shane Helms vs. Chavo Guerrero

They put the wrong graphic up for the match just to show how inept they were here. Helms and Guerrero were more or less perfect in this division at this time so this should rock. Helms has his own rap song and his own dance team called the Sugar Babies. He's Sugar Shane Helms if that clears up anything else. He also has an awesome finisher called the Vertebreaker.

They start off rather slowly with Shane being a fast paced guy and Chavo being more of a Dean Malenko style guy. Very nice technical and mat basted stuff gets us to a standoff. Shane is a heel here I think but it's not exactly clear. Regal Stretch, which is different than the STFU, by Chavo and Helms is in trouble.

Chavo takes over and apparently he's the heel. It's not a good sign when about halfway through this match and I'm just getting that. Huge dive to the floor gets no reaction. I don't get this crowd: they just don't seem to care about anything at all and it's rather annoying. Shane does some basic stuff to take us back to even and both guys are down. Decent match so far.

Shane keeps kicking out and the Tornado DDT is blocked. Nightmare on Helm Street, the Eye of the Hurricane later on, gets two. Top rope cross body gets two in a cool looking move. Shane did it which I left out somehow. Vertebreaker hits on Chavo to let us hear that rap song again as Shane wins the title which I think was the final title change until the WWE stuff.

**Rating:** C+. Entertaining match but it never clicked to get it up to that top level. This was pretty good here though although the crowd just flat out did not care. I think you can chalk this up to the company just being dead at this point

though. The match was good though, but it just never really got off the ground well enough to be very good. Solid use of about 15 minutes though.

Here's Helms on Raw, August 27, 2001. Before the match he talked about loving superheroes.

#### European Title: Hurricane vs. Matt Hardy

This is the debut of the Hurricane superhero character but he has hip hop music still. Matt looks shocked but he clotheslines Hurricane down quickly. Superkick by Helms sets up a top rope cross body for two. There's a Russian legsweep by Matt and Hurricane is in trouble. The middle rope leg gets two. A cross body misses for Matt and here's Ivory to hit Lita in the knee with a pipe. She hits Matt as well, allowing Hurricane to hit the Eye of the Hurricane to steal the pin and the title. This was really quick.

Helms would pick the Cruiserweight Title up again and defended it at King of the Ring 2002.

#### Cruiserweight Title: Jamie Noble vs. Hurricane

This was either Noble's first match or at least his first feud. Oh ok this is his second. Seriously, the recap is still going. It's getting more time than the opening video. Oh and the heels unmasked him which Burchill is still trying to do. IT'S STILL GOING! I have absolutely no interest in this match at all. Hurricane was running around chokeslamming people. Nidia thinks she means something. That's just amusing.

There's a "she's a crack w\*\*\*\*" chant going as we flash back to ECW. She tries to trip Hurricane and misses. You grab the big white thing. It's how you got a job more than likely as it certainly isn't for your looks and talent. Oh Tuesday is the Divas Undressed thing. It was a lingerie thing that went nowhere. There were some ok looks but that's about it. As you can tell, I'm not talking much about the match.

This division and title were just jokes and it's good that the title isn't coming back. Let it go people. Oh dear we begin the sex jokes about Hurricane and why Nidia dumped him. I hate those. Oh dang it they're using sleepers. I can barely stand the thought of this match already and they're just boring me to death. This division was just a freaking waste. Wait a minute. This is a Smackdown match. WHY ARE LAWLER AND ROSS CALLING IT???

We have acknowledged that Tazz and Cole, the SMACKDOWN ANNOUNCERS are in the building, but instead we get Ross and Lawler who have nothing to do with these guys or their show talking about the match. What in the heck is wrong with this? Hurricane and Nidia fight over his cape. Hurricane suplexes Noble over the ropes and he lands on his leg. Dang it he's getting up so we have to keep going. The main problem here is Nidia.

She won't freaking shut up and she's just annoying as all goodness. Hurricane hits a swinging neckbreaker from the top rope. This match just needs to end. It's all highspots and Nidia and only one of those things are interesting. Noble kicks out of the chokeslam which stuns the crowd. For some reason they're into this. Hurricane crotches himself on the top and Noble powerbombs him for the title while Nidia shoves his foot off the ropes. They make out way too much after the match.

**Rating:** D-. And it passes for the highspots. This was just freaking pointless and of course they gave it 10 minutes. See, in WCW, this was successful because there WERE NO STORIES. It was all highspots and no stupid ugly women screaming all the time. Learn from that Vince.

Here's Helms putting over a rookie on Raw, December 2, 2002.

#### Batista vs. The Hurricane

Flair comes out with Batista. Batista jumps him before the match as the

announcers talk about the guest referee. Gee, I wonder who it'll be between HHH and RVD in a match to decide who faces SHAWN for the title. Hurricane has bad ribs from something not important enough to tell us about. Batista Bomb ends this in about a minute.

Here's Helms' reward for that on Raw, March 10, 2003.

### The Hurricane vs. The Rock

No DQ. This is during Rock's last heel run, right before he was to face Austin for the third time at Wrestlemania. Rock tells Hurricane to bring it and the masked man hammers away with right hands to send Rock out to the floor. Hurricane follows him out to hammer away, only to walk into a Samoan drop back inside. Rock puts on the cape for a cool visual and nails Hurricane with a clothesline. He chokes on the ropes and jogs around the ring like the pompous jerk that he is.

We hit the chinlock for a bit before Hurricane fights up and grabs a running neckbreaker. JR is Hurricane's biggest cheerleader here like a face announcer is supposed to be. Some more clotheslines and a slow motion enziguri (called a Shining Wizard by JR) staggers Rock and a high cross body gets two. There's a Blockbuster for the same and Rock is in trouble. Back up and Rock nails the DDT before nipping up a split second later.

The Rock Bottom is countered but Rock fires off more right hands. A low blow breaks Rock's momentum and Hurricane nails a Rock Bottom of his own. It's only a delayed two though and Rock plants him with the spinebuster. Rock hits the second rope for the elbow but here's Austin for the distraction, allowing Hurricane to grab a rollup for the huge upset.

**Rating:** D+. The match wasn't much but I've been wanting to get to this one for awhile. It's a sad way to end Rock's career as a main event guy. I know he was getting closer to Hollywood and all that, but this loss just ended any mainstream appeal that he had and he was lucky to get a supporting role in a B-Movie after this.

So we'll mov....wait a second. That's not exactly what happened is it? Upon a bit more research, Rock is considered one of the biggest stars in

the history of wrestling, went on to become a huge star in Hollywood and would headline three more Wrestlemanias (Rock vs. Austin was the main event of Wrestlemania XIX. It just was.), including one of the highest drawing shows in the history of wrestling.

BUT HE JUST LOST TO THE HURRICANE! Yes he did, and almost no one remembers it, because three weeks later he was hitting three Rock Bottoms on Steve Austin to finally defeat him at Wrestlemania before facing Goldberg and moving on to Hollywood, only to come back for a huge match at Wrestlemania XX.

The point of the story is simple: big stars don't lose their star power by losing a single match. This was Rock giving Hurricane a huge rub for multiple reasons. Besides the pin of course, the key thing here was Rock SELLING for Hurricane. This wasn't Rock destroying Hurricane and barely breaking a sweat before Hurricane got a fluke pin. Instead, Rock's eyes were rolling back in his head and he was making the kickouts look like some of the hardest things he had ever had to do.

It didn't really make Hurricane a star, but it was Rock not having an ego and putting someone over. Today, Hurricane would be considered the biggest joke in the world and would probably get beaten down after the match was over. Why? Because Heaven forbid someone new gets to look like a star thanks to a rub for a huge name.

We'll jump ahead again to Hurricane in a tag team with Rosey. Here's a one off non-title match at Backlash 2004.

#### La Resistance vs. Hurricane/Rosey

This is what we call a filler match to bring the crowd back down. It isn't even for a title. Conway and Hurricane start and the crowd goes almost completely silent. A headscissors takes Conway down and it's off to Rosey. That's really only so he can throw at Conway and it's back to the storm guy.

Conway hits a swinging neckbreaker and powerslam before tagging in Grenier. Grenier puts on a powerslam and here's Eugene. Hurricane tags Rosey as Eugene plays with the flags. Rosey misses a corner splash but

Hurricane dives on both French dudes on the floor. Eugene runs the ropes but does nothing else. Eye of the Hurricane gets the pin on Grenier.

**Rating:** D+. The match could have and probably should have been on Raw, but dang I always feel sorry for the people in this match. They know no one is really interested in seeing them out there but they have to go out and work a match anyway, which no one wants to see and that no one is going to talk about, but they do it anyway. This was fine and Eugene didn't add or subtract anything.

Here's a one off match from Raw, November 1, 2004.

### Hurricane vs. Christian

This is a result of some sneak attack by Christian recently. About five seconds into the match, here's Edge (I believe debuting Metalingus (the Alter Bridge song)) to promote his book as the match is going on.

Hurricane has a headlock on Christian as Edge talks about how he doesn't like Peoria. It wasn't nice of those people to not vote him in at Taboo Tuesday but he'll write an epilogue for that later. JR seems annoyed so Edge offers him a signed copy. The match is nothing and the camera is mostly on Edge during this.

The team would win the Raw Tag Team Titles on May 1, 2005 at Backlash. Here's their first defense from the next night on Raw.

### Raw Tag Titles: La Resistance vs. Hurricane/Rosey

Hurricane and Rosey won the belts last night in tag team turmoil. Rosey gets jumped before the match starts and the fat man gets to start with Grenier. A Hart Attack gets two on Rosey and it's off to Conway. Back to Grenier for nothing of note and it's back to Conway. Rosey breaks free and it's off to Hurricane. No one is responding to any of this at all. A top rope rana gets two on Grenier and Conway is sent to the floor. A side slam/Eye of the Hurricane combo gets the pin on Grenier to retain.

**Rating:** D. What in the world was the point of this other than filling in time? The answer to that would be nothing, as it was nothing but filler. These four guys were in the horrible spot on the card as they had to be

thrown out there in between the major matches and had to fill in time. That's a horrible spot to be in but at least they got on the show which is more than Hurricane and Rosey would do for a long time.

We'll jump ahead to New Year's Revolution 2006 for a bad choice for a match with Helms now a heel.

#### Jerry Lawler vs. Gregory Helms

This is more or less the same thing that they did with Hassan last year as they were just giving Helms this to get him over as a cruiserweight trying to fight heavyweight guys. Apparently Lawler said Helms sucked and he got slapped or vice versa, and I think it was the original. I love how Coach tries to act like he means something. The idea worked as I want to smack him already but then again I always do.

Helms is mostly dominating here so at least they've got that working right. In a funny line, Coach says he isn't sure which chin Helms is grabbing. Helms pulls a Rock and does his own commentary in the match as this is going a bit long. Uh oh it's strap time and here comes Lawler.

They say his fists are moving like pistons. That's just amusing in general. Lawler shouts out piledriver and somehow Helms counters it. I wonder how he figured out what to do? And Lawler hits the middle rope punch....FOR THE PIN??? WHAT IN THE FLYING HECK WAS THAT???

**Rating:** F. Seriously, there is ZERO justification to put Lawler over clean here as this isn't in Memphis. No way is this ok at all. This was a failure plain and simple. Not from a wrestling perspective but from a booking and thinking one. Helms deserves far better than this and it's not fair to see this happen to him.

Better times would come later in the month at the 2006 Royal Rumble.

Cruiserweight Title: Gregory Helms vs. Kid Kash vs. Funaki vs. Jamie

## Noble vs. Nunzio vs. Paul London

Kid Kash is champion coming in and this is Texas Tornado rules and one fall to a finish. Helms is from Raw but is here because it's an open invitational. It's a big brawl to start and everyone gangs up on Helms. I don't know if there was a delay of some sort or just a really bad sign, but there are dozens if not hundreds of empty seats visible in the lower arena, most of them opposite the hard camera.

Helms gets beaten into the corner but Kash pulls some other people off for no apparent reason. Nunzio slams Kash onto the mat for one Noble gets two on Nunzio off a powerslam as London hits a dropsalt for two on Noble and Nunzio. Wait apparently those red seats are stairs. Those are rather distracting and the seating structure is odd as there's a group of about eight seats per row then another set of stairs as opposed to most arenas where there are about twice that many in a row. At least the place isn't as empty as it seemed.

Nunzio hits a slingshot to send Noble into the corner and Funaki adds a bulldog for two. We finally get to the dives with Nunzio diving on a pair of guys, allowing Noble to get two on Kash via a leg lariat. Noble dives on Helms and Nunzio on the floor and Funaki is knocked off the top onto Nunzio and Noble. London kicks Kash to the floor as well and dives on everyone not named Helms with a shooting star off the top.

Back in and London loads up a shooting star press onto Kash but Helms goes up top at the same time and hooks a swinging neckbreaker to bring London down for two. A brainbuster from Kash kills London again but two guys come in for the save. All six guys are back in the ring now and Kash gets two off a Backstabber on Nunzio. Funaki can't hit a tornado DDT on Noble and gets caught in a gutbuster for trying. Noble gets sent to the floor by Helms and Gregory hits a Shining Wizard out of nowhere for the pin on Funaki and the title.

**Rating:** C+. What are you expecting to find here? It's six guys in the ring all at once and going nuts on each other with spots. There isn't supposed to be any sort of story or flow to it and there certainly wasn't here. It was the right choice for an opener and the match worked well

enough for its purpose. Fine but nothing memorable at all. Helms would hold the title for over a year.

Here's a title defense at Judgment Day 2006.

### Cruiserweight Title: Gregory Helms vs. Super Crazy

Helms is in the middle of his year plus title reign and this is just another title defense. Crazy is part of the Mexicools here so he's on a lawn mower because...well just because. An Arizona Diamondback is here. We get a Smokey Robinson reference for no apparent reason at all. Jackknife cover gets two for Crazy as does another rollup. La Majistrol gets two.

Crazy sends him to the floor with a clothesline and sets for a dive. Nick Patrick stops it so Crazy uses him for a springboard to dive anyway. LET THE ECW CHANTS RING!!! And never mind as a hot shot gets two for Helms as does a neckbreaker. Remember that whole "this is just a TV match" from the previous match? That isn't the case here. This is the very different LONG TV match.

Suplex by Crazy gets no cover as we go back to more holds on the mat. Off to the chinlock as we hear about Crazy winning a triple threat to get here. No word on opponents or anything but I guess they don't matter. Rollup gets two for Crazy as the fans are mostly deceased. Elbow misses for the champion and Crazy fights back a bit. For a guy named SUPER CRAZY he's really not that insane.

Missile dropkick gets two. Moonsault misses as does the Shining Wizard for the champion. Spinwheel kick gets two as we're totally killing time here. Helms gets about his 8<sup>th</sup> neckbreaker of the match for two. Helms finally gets a snake eyes and rollup with his feet on the ropes to end this.

**Rating:** D+. Rather boring match here as Super Crazy becomes the Scott Steiner of the Cruiserweights. What I mean by that is he used to be good and at this point he's doing nothing but living off past glory with the same name and one or two of the same moves that are signature things. Nothing of note here at all and a rather weak match.

And a non-title match at Great American Bash 2006.

### Matt Hardy vs. Gregory Helms

Helms is Cruiserweight Champion but this is non-title because Matt is overweight. The fans are all behind him though so at least he has that going for him. Matt grabs an armdrag and it's a standoff. They go to the mat with Hardy in control. Back up and it's a standoff but Matt strikes a Hurricane pose to crack everyone up. Rollup gets two for Hardy. Helms grabs a swinging neckbreaker for two and control.

Another neckbreaker gets the same and let's hit that chinlock. Matt fights up and hits a punch to the ribs of a jumping Helms. Russian legsweep sets up an attempted Side Effect but Helms escapes. He goes up and gets crotched so Matt tries a superplex. The more famous of them is crotched also so Helms hits a top rope swinging neckbreaker to put both guys down.

It eventually gets two as Matt throws his foot on the rope. Greg works on the neck some more and goes into a chinlock again. He shifts that over to a Pedigree position on the mat so he can ram some knees into Matt's face. Back up and they slug it out. Side Effect gets two for Matt. Bulldog gets two. Twist of Fate is countered (probably due to him standing there before trying it) into....uh....the best I can think of is a Killswitch if Matt was facing up and Helms was a bit off to the side. I've never seen that before. Either way it gets two.

Shining Wizard misses but the second attempt hits for two. Helms sets for a belly to back superplex but Matt hits some elbows and OH MY GOODNESS THE HUMANITY!!!! Matt hit a moonsault press and I'm sure Helms is dead. I mean....the fat that must have just landed on him. Anyway Matt drops an elbow on the top of the head for two. Matt pounds away in the corner but a snake eyes drop into the buckle plus some tights are enough for Helms to get the pin.

**Rating:** C-. The first seven minutes or so were really bad but after that this got a lot better. The innovative stuff from Helms is always worth seeing. They were trying to make him seem like something more than just a Cruiserweight and it was kind of working before he broke his neck in May

of next year and was out for about 15 months.

Helms wouldn't do much for the next few months before undergoing neck surgery and missing a year and a half. He would come back in a dual role of ace reporter Gregory Helms and of course the Hurricane. ECW's Paul Burchill wanted to prove Hurricane's real identity, leading to a mask vs. career match on ECW, November 17, 2009.

### Paul Burchill vs. The Hurricane

Burchill has Katie Lea (Winter) with him. Feeling out process to start and Hurricane arm drags him to the floor. Hurricane sends him to the floor again and it's time for a chinlock. Katie trips Hurricane so that Burchill can hit a Saito Suplex to take over. Back from a break with Burchill controlling via a chinlock. Burchill pounds on him in the corner but Hurricane avoids a charge. They slug it out with Hurricane taking over. A Hurri-press and clothesline take Burchill down for two.

Eye of the Hurricane is broken up though and a kick to the face gets two for Paul. Another Eye attempt is countered into a northern lights suplex for two. Hurricane hits a rana for two but Katie distracts him again and a powerslam gets two for Burchill. A suplex is reversed into the Eye of the Hurricane but it only gets two. Hurricane goes up again but gets crotched. Burchill tries to suplex him to the floor but Hurricane counters into a swinging neckbreaker off the top for the pin. It was more exciting than it sounds here.

**Rating:** B-. This was a pretty fun match as Burchill kept getting frustrated but he never could put Hurricane away. The neckbreaker off the top was a big enough move to end things, but it felt kind of flat as it hit and that was it instead of building to a bigger climax for the pin. Still good though.

We'll wrap it up there as Helms was released soon after this and has hit the indies since then. Helms is one of those guys that is a good hand at what he does and that's all someone like him needs to be. He came up with a good character which hasn't been done very well before and he made a good career on charisma and talent. That's a rare thing but something i for someone to be able to do.

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## **Wrestler of the Day – August 27: Stacy Keibler**

Time for a gorgeous leggy blonde in Stacy Keibler.

Stacy Keibler got her start in 2000 as Nitro Girl Sky. She would become Miss Hancock, the sexy corporate character who wore incredibly short skirts and often took her hair down to dance. Sometimes she even got in the ring, including this match on Nitro, June 5, 2000.

Diamond Dallas Page/Miss Hancock vs. Kimberly Page/Mike Awesome

This is part of the selfish Kimberly phase where she hated Page for stealing the spotlight. For some reason Kimberly is shocked at Page being Hancock's partner. Page even offers a little kick to Kimberly's trunks before the girls get going. With a dance off of course. Hancock throws her glasses to Page

but Kimberly shoves her down. Hancock is wrestling in heels and actually takes her down, only to have to slap Awesome.

It's off to the guys with DDP nailing a discus lariat and getting two off a sunset flip. A low blow slows Page down and a running clothesline in the corner has him in even more trouble. That's fine with Page who hammers away in the corner but eats an elbow to the jaw. It's already table time but Mike leaves it on the floor so he can hit the Awesome Splash for two. Hancock gets on the table and pulls up the skirt, allowing Page to hit the Diamond Cutter for the pin.

**Rating:** D. Expect to hear this a lot, but Hancock was there for her looks and not much else. They let the guys do most of the work here like they should have and gave us the fan service with Hancock getting on the table. She was twenty years old here so what do you think she's doing out there?

Hancock would be on PPV soon after this at Bash at the Beach 2000 in a wedding gown match. It might be better if you don't know the backstory here.

### Miss Hancock vs. Daffney

Naturally Stacy looks gorgeous. This wound up going to a pregnancy angle where there was supposed to be incest of some kind, I believe with Stacy being Ric's daughter or him being the father of the baby or something like that. It never came through due to the lack of business but whatever. And yes that's the Scream Queen of TNA. She's also the better in ring competitor here. Stacy is 20 here. That's hard to believe.

There's wedding cake here too. Instead of trying to win they go for the cake. David is on his second interference so far. The referee gets pantsed and so does David. Now the girls chase each other around the ring and we try to shave Daffney's head. Oh look it's Crowbar to interfere even more. He takes his pants off to keep things even. We do get a funny line of "he's choking David Flair with his pants!" And then Stacy just

strips for the heck of it so that Daffney wins. Daffney hits her with cake.

**Rating:** N/A. Not wrestling, but the girls both looked good. This is what I get for watching WCW from 2000 though so I bring this on myself.

Next up is a hardcore match on Nitro, July 31, 2000.

### Major Gunns vs. Stacy Keibler

This starts in the back with Gunns hitting her in the back with what looked like a bottle of water before they head into the bathroom. Gunns turns on the shower and Mark Madden is losing his mind. They fight over to catering with Hancock having a Twinkie shoved down her throat. There goes a carrot cake and it would be a bit better if they weren't laughing at each other. They head to the ring where there's a fight going on between Sgt. AWOL and David Flair. The guys go to the floor and there's a table set up in the corner. Hancock throws her against the table and gets the pin off a slam. No rating for obvious reasons.

Here's the PPV rematch at New Blood Rising in a Rip Off The Camouflage match.

### Major Guns vs. Ms. Hancock

This is the ROTC match. Oh and there's a mud pit. Guns' music starts when she's already in the ring. Stacey in a one piece camouflage dress with her hair pulled back...WOW. She was 20 at this point so brand new. They do some painfully bad stuff here and Guns kicks her in the stomach. Remember that. In a Rip off the Camouflage match, there are covers. Guns gets her top ripped off and Stacey (It's Stacey Keibler in case that wasn't sinking in. She's Ms. Hancock) gets two.

This is mainly about how many upskirt shots can we get. Stacey gets her shorts ripped off and has more camo underneath it.

Stacey shakes her hips and hits a horrible cross body from the middle rope. She does a nice nip up but gets kicked in the stomach again. The selling of these people is a far cry from Willy Lowman. Stacey misses another cross body and holds her stomach.

Guns gets her shorts ripped off to reveal more camouflage. Same thing happens to Stacey's top. And they're in the mud. Doesn't that make it harder to see? Stacey starts holding her stomach and gets pinned. David Flair, Stacey's fiancé, runs out and is worried about her. We get a stretcher and you can see it from here.

**Rating:** F. Yeah the girls were hot. The ending makes this all the stupider, and we'll get to that in a bit. This was a freaking joke. When Debra is having better "matches" than you are, there's a big problem

It was off to the WWF soon after this and the obvious match came first over who was hotter: Stacy Keibler and Torrie Wilson or Trish Stratus and Lita? What better way to find out than in a bra and panties match at InVasion?

### Torrie Wilson/Stacy Keibler vs. Lita/Trish Stratus

Mick Foley appoints himself guest referee here again. This was smart if nothing else as it gave a person people actually care about to the match. Torrie and Stacy have weird entrance music. Lita was a legit big deal at the time and was the biggest women's star more or less since Sable and Sunny. Seriously do you want commentary here? Trish was getting better every day at this point but still wasn't that good yet.

Stacy gets her top ripped off. Lita has the same done. Trish vs. Torrie now and Trish loses her shirt somewhere. There goes all of Torrie's clothes. Stacy gets her pants ripped off to end it. Mick picks up the clothes after the match which is funny.

**Rating:** N/A. Not a wrestling match, so there you go.

Time for some regular wrestling on Raw, August 6, 2001.

#### Jacqueline vs. Torrie Wilson/Stacy Keibler

This can't go on long. The universe can't withstand it. The two jump the one quickly but she fights back while shouting. I'm shocked at the range of her character development in this. Stacy is sent to the floor so Ivory returns, DDT Jackie to turn Alliance and Torrie gets the pin. If Ivory had actually been around for the last four months...yeah I still wouldn't care. Too short to rate, thank goodness.

And now some slightly better wrestling on Raw, October 1, 2001.

#### Tajiri/Torrie Wilson vs. Stacy Keibler/Tazz

Torrie is in a full body dress and Stacy is in leather shorts. Clearly they're in fighting gear here. The guys start (thank goodness) and Tajiri hits the handspring elbow. He tries a kick but gets caught in the capture suplex and it's off to Stacy vs. Torrie. Make this quick. As expected they're terrible because THEY AREN'T WRESTLERS. Back to the guys with Tajiri firing off his strikes and hooking the Tarantula. Ivory runs out and DDTs Torrie so Stacy can pin her. Awful match and for the life of me is anyone supposed to care?

The girls would head to England at Rebellion 2001.

#### Mighty Molly/Stacy Keibler vs. Lita/Torrie Wilson

Trish is referee here due to reasons of hotness. It says a lot when Molly is the least attractive person in a match. Stacy in camo top and leather skirt works to put it mildly. Heyman says he and Lita wear the same style of underwear. Oh dear. Stacy and Torrie start us off. This is more or less about what you would expect. Trish can't do much in the ring yet so Lita and Molly are going to be carrying this one.

Apparently over 50,000 tickets were sold i

n an hour for Mania 18. Molly comes in as we're waiting for Lita to come in and clean house. Stacy does the leg choke to a pop. Lita gets knocked down and the heels double team for a bit. Make your own orgy jokes. Molly does what she can but Torrie is kind of uncarryable. There's Lita and it's over in less than a minute with the Twist of Fate to Molly.

**Rating:** D. The match sucked but the girls looked good. That's all there is to this and that's all there was ever going to be on this.

Let's get some better workers in the ring on Raw, March 11, 2002.

#### Lita/Trish Stratus vs. Jazz/Stacy Keibler

I always loved how Lita looked in those tied off Wrestlemania baseball jerseys. Trish is just starting to get good and she has her signature look down now. Trish gets jumped and double teamed to start but let's talk about Lucy! She has a broken leg apparently but HHH is on his way back. Jazz and Lita start things off with Jazz (the Women's Champion) hitting a double chickenwing on Lita.

Off to Stacy for a corner leg choke but Lita realizes that she's fighting Stacy freaking Keibler and slams her down. Off to Trish as everything breaks down. Jazz takes a double flapjack but Trish accidentally kicks Lita, giving Jazz a quick rollup win. Trish, Jazz and Lita would have a triple threat on Sunday for the title and for the life of me I have no idea why Trish didn't win the title there but rather a month or so later.

Back to PPV at Judgment Day 2002.

#### Women's Title: Trish Stratus vs. Stacy Keibler

Each is going to have a Dudley in their corner for reasons of

bad writing. Molly vs. Trish had been built up for months but they went with this instead because they picked the Dudley feud to be the better draw. Trish interrupted a swimsuit contest to set this up on Thursday. Well at least we get D-Von's music. Aww man they hadn't changed it yet so it's just organ music. Dang it!

Naturally Bubba Ray Dudley is here. This was right before they were going to build him up as one of the top faces on Raw. Yes, that's a true story. I'll wait a bit while you regain consciousness. Stacy throws a kick that hits (read as her foot might have been two feet from Trish's head, prompting a groan from the crowd) for two. Trish was just ok in the ring at this point and the awful Boston Crab shows that.

Stacy counters and Trish counters that into a rollup for two. This is quickly getting embarrassing, which says a lot as we're maybe a minute into it. Trish hammers away and Stacy is sent to the floor where she has a fit. Batista comes in and drills Trish (lucky) with a slam that gets two for Stacy. Stacy chokes away and Trish fights back, getting a bulldog (minus springboard) to end this quickly. Terrible match but Stacy looked great.

Back to Raw with a slightly better idea on Raw, February 24, 2003.

### Stacy Keibler/Test vs. Chris Jericho/Christian

Basic idea here: they're in Toronto so Stacy comes out in a tied off Maple Leafs jersey and little white shorts. She's also terrified of Test to continue a stupid angle, though he's fighting to go after Jericho for accidentally hitting Stacy with a chair. Test slams Christian down but Jericho pulls Stacy off the apron to distract the big man. Christian is lifted in the air for a press slam but Jericho comes in with a chair for the DQ.

Next up, the biggest stage of them all at Wrestlemania XX.

## Sable/Torrie Wilson vs. Miss Jackie/Stacy Keibler

This is an evening gown match and the annual Playboy promotional match. Sable and Torrie posed together and had a teased lesbian angle around this time. Sable wants to just wrestle without clothes but Jackie (Gayda, as in the attractive one) says no. Everyone else winds up in lingerie and Jackie is soon stripped too. This is exactly what you would expect: unfunny announcers, sexual spots, very little wrestling and very little complaining from most fans. Stacy kicks Torrie's head off for two and it's back to Jackie. We get the rolling over the referee spot and Torrie rolls up Jackie for the pin. This was what it was.

Another Raw match from October 4, 2004.

## Stacy Keibler vs. Molly Holly

Non-title, likely because neither of them are champions. Trish, looking GREAT in a low cut top and jeans with some stomach showing, sits in on commentary. She shows us a clip from last week where Christy Hemme stripped off her clothes. Trish's assessment, and again I quote, "Sl\*\* sl\*\* sl\*\* sl\*\*. Christy Hemme is a sl\*\*." I love the Bellas trying to sound all serious when you have the girls from this era ripping into each other with lines like that.

Even JR says Stacy has no chance here, albeit in JR-speak of course. Molly points a finger in Stacy's face so she bites down on it. Again, these jokes are too easy at times. Keibler chokes in the corner and throws Molly down by her VERY short hair (she was shaved bald at Wrestlemania).

As this is going on, we get WWE Fantasy standings on the bottom of the screen. That's a fascinating idea actually, but it would wind up being a huge mess. The camera stays on Trish, talking about how Christy "exudes sl\*\*tiness." Molly gets low bridged to the floor and Trish runs down to distract Stacy for no apparent reason, but Stacy is actually smart enough (I'm

stunned too) to counter into a cradle for the pin.

We'll wrap it up with a six person tag from Raw on August 8, 2005.

### Stacy Keibler/Hurricane/Rosey vs. Victoria/Heartthrobs

The superheroes are Raw Tag Team Champions. If you don't remember the Heartthrobs, I'm not surprised. Stacy is a superheroine here because she looks good in the outfit. Antonio Thomas starts with Hurricane but Romeo Roselli gets in a cheap clothesline from the apron to take over. Hurricane fights out of a chinlock and tags in Rosey to clean house. Everything breaks down and Stacy gets on the apron to shake her hips a bit for a distraction, earning a hard shot from Victoria. The Heartthrobs hit a double STO on Rosey for the fast pin.

Me? Use this as an excuse to look at Stacy Keibler for awhile? Perish the thought. I'm sure you can figure out the idea here: she's there because she's a 6'0 stunning blonde who can dance. I didn't see a good match in the whole stretch but I have no idea why you would be looking for one in something about Stacy Keibler. She's there for the view and there's nothing wrong with that.

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# On This Day: November 17, 2009 – ECW on SyFy: Welcome Back Punk

## ECW on SyFy

Date: November 17, 2009

Location: Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Byron Saxton

This isn't a show I talk about all that much but it was requested so here it is. This is one of the very last ECW shows as it would be replaced by NXT in February of 2010. The main event tonight is Punk returning to the show to team with Regal against R-Truth/Christian in what should be a good match. Let's get to it.

We open with a closeup of the ECW logo when Punk pops up. He says it all started for him here before he became a three time straightedge World Heavyweight Champion. It's like Alexander the Great returning home.

Theme song opens us up.

This is the go home show for Survivor Series.

Here are Ryder and Rosa to open the show. He talks about getting messages on Twitter (why am I shocked?) but he's here to introduce us to Rosa who he praises a lot. She says he almost won last week and it's like going shoe shopping once. The fans boo this out of the building of course. He wants her here to be in his corner for his next rematch with Shelton.

Here's Benjamin who accepts the challenge and hits on Rosa. Zach defends her and gets called a tool. Now he's a power tool according to Shelton. Shelton wants to do it right now. Ryder says let's wait which gets some solid heat. Shelton looks away

and gets punched as Ryder runs off.

We recap Hurricane vs. Paul Burchill. Hurricane has been running around being a hero but Burchill swears it's Gregory Helms. They've feuded for awhile and tonight it's mask vs. career.

### Paul Burchill vs. The Hurricane

Burchill has Katie Lea (Winter) with him. Feeling out process to start and Hurricane arm drags him to the floor. Hurricane sends him to the floor again and it's time for a chinlock. Katie trips Hurricane so that Burchill can hit a Saito Suplex to take over. Back from a break with Burchill controlling via a chinlock. Burchill pounds on him in the corner but Hurricane avoids a charge. They slug it out with Hurricane taking over. A Hurri-press and clothesline take Burchill down for two.

Eye of the Hurricane is broken up though and a kick to the face gets two for Paul. Another Eye attempt is countered into a northern lights suplex for two. Hurricane hits a rana for two but Katie distracts him again and a powerslam gets two for Burchill. A suplex is reversed into the Eye of the Hurricane but it only gets two. Hurricane goes up again but gets crotched. Burchill tries to suplex him to the floor but Hurricane counters into a swining neckbreaker off the top for the pin. It was more exciting than it sounds here.

**Rating:** B-. This was a pretty fun match as Burchill kept getting frustrated but he never could put Hurricane away. The neckbreaker off the top was a big enough move to end things, but it felt kind of flat as it hit and that was it instead of building to a bigger climax for the pin. Still good though.

Burchill realizes he's gone and gets upset.

Tiffany, the GM, is in the back when Punk comes in to remind her he's straightedge. He's looked into her personal life and says she likes to drink. Tiffany says she likes to have fun

and Punk should try it sometime. She leaves and Punk looks at her like she suggested opening an elephant pants store.

### Vance Archer vs. Johnny Andrews

Andrews is a local jobber. Reverse DDT ends this in about a minute.

Punk and Christian are in the back. Christian inquires about straightedge and wants to know if Punk has a curfew or if he can hold hands with a girl. Punk says he used to be ECW Champion. Christian says Punk is a nerd.

### William Regal/CM Punk vs. R-Truth/Christian

Punk and Christian start but Christian wants Regal. Off to Truth quickly and the good guys hit stereo middle rope dropkicks to clear the ring. After a break it's Regal vs. Truth but Regal is knocked into a tag. Punk gets kicked to the floor so Truth can dive on him. Regal pulls Truth off the apron, injuring his knee. These four will all be in a Survivor Series match on Sunday.

Punk comes in to work on the bad leg with a basic leg lock. He also manages to yell at Christian a bit which is a nice touch. Back to Regal as the beating continues. Punk misses a legdrop but still prevents the tag with a shot to the leg. Truth manages an enziguri ti Regal and it's a double tag to bring in Christian and Punk. Tornado DDT gets two for the Canadian. GTS and Killswitch are countered and everything breaks down. Christian loads up the Killswitch but Regal hits his running knee so that the GTS can pin Christian.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad match here as it set up the match on Sunday which is the whole idea of this show. Punk had just come off the world title run and would be about to form the Straight Edge Society in January. Other than that the match was just ok. Christian's team would win on Sunday.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The dying days of ECW were a shame as the show was really starting to get better. With the new guys being brought in and the storylines being simplified, there wasn't much to complain about at all. Then NXT started and the first season was awesome so I can't complain much. Good show here, especially for a one off show. I'll likely be starting to do ECW on SyFy from the beginning soon.

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# **ECW on SyFy – November 17, 2009 – Ryder Talks About Twitter**

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Burchill has Katie Lea (Winter) with him. Feeling out process to start and Hurricane arm drags him to the floor. Hurricane sends him to the floor again and it's time for a chinlock. Katie trips Hurricane so that Burchill can hit a Saito Suplex to take over. Back from a break with Burchill controlling via a chinlock. Burchill pounds on him in the corner but Hurricane avoids a charge. They slug it out with Hurricane taking over. A Hurri-press and clothesline take Burchill down for two.

Eye of the Hurricane is broken up though and a kick to the face gets two for Paul. Another Eye attempt is countered into

a northern lights suplex for two. Hurricane hits a rana for two but Katie distracts him again and a powerslam gets two for Burchill. A suplex is reversed into the Eye of the Hurricane but it only gets two. Hurricane goes up again but gets crotched. Burchill tries to suplex him to the floor but Hurricane counters into a swining neckbreaker off the top for the pin. It was more exciting than it sounds here.

**Rating:** B-. This was a pretty fun match as Burchill kept getting frustrated but he never could put Hurricane away. The neckbreaker off the top was a big enough move to end things, but it felt kind of flat as it hit and that was it instead of building to a bigger climax for the pin. Still good though.

Burchill realizes he's gone and gets upset.

Tiffany, the GM, is in the back when Punk comes in to remind her he's straightedge. He's looked into her personal life and says she likes to drink. Tiffany says she likes to have fun and Punk should try it sometime. She leaves and Punk looks at her like she suggested opening an elephant pants store.

### Vance Archer vs. Johnny Andrews

Andrews is a local jobber. Reverse DDT ends this in about a minute.

Punk and Christian are in the back. Christian inquires about straightedge and wants to know if Punk has a curfew or if he can hold hands with a girl. Punk says he used to be ECW Champion. Christian says Punk is a nerd.

### William Regal/CM Punk vs. R-Truth/Christian

Punk and Christian start but Christian wants Regal. Off to Truth quickly and the good guys hit stereo middle rope dropkicks to clear the ring. After a break it's Regal vs. Truth but Regal is knocked into a tag. Punk gets kicked to the floor so Truth can dive on him. Regal pulls Truth off the

apron, injuring his knee. These four will all be in a Survivor Series match on Sunday.

Punk comes in to work on the bad leg with a basic leg lock. He also manages to yell at Christian a bit which is a nice touch. Back to Regal as the beating continues. Punk misses a legdrop but still prevents the tag with a shot to the leg. Truth manages an enziguri ti Regal and it's a double tag to bring in Christian and Punk. Tornado DDT gets two for the Canadian. GTS and Killswitch are countered and everything breaks down. Christian loads up the Killswitch but Regal hits his running knee so that the GTS can pin Christian.

**Rating:** C. Not a bad match here as it set up the match on Sunday which is the whole idea of this show. Punk had just come off the world title run and would be about to form the Straight Edge Society in January. Other than that the match was just ok. Christian's team would win on Sunday.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The dying days of ECW were a shame as the show was really starting to get better. With the new guys being brought in and the storylines being simplified, there wasn't much to complain about at all. Then NXT started and the first season was awesome so I can't complain much. Good show here, especially for a one off show. I'll likely be starting to do ECW on SyFy from the beginning soon.

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